

3 charged with Gandhi murder

NEW DELHI (R) — Two Indian policemen and a government official were formally charged Tuesday with murdering Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on Oct. 31 last year, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. The news agency said a Delhi magistrate went to the prison where the three men were being held to lay the charges, which also included conspiracy to murder. The three men, all Sikhs, were named as Satwant Singh and Balbir Singh, both policemen, and Kehar Singh, a civil servant. Satwant, one of Mrs. Gandhi's bodyguards, was injured and his accomplice, Beant Singh, was killed when Mrs. Gandhi's other guards opened fire after the two killers shot her. PTI quoted the charge sheet as saying Balbir Singh incited the two men to commit the murder after Kehar Singh converted them into religious fanatics at a special ceremony in a Sikh temple.

Sikh leader plans Punjab-Delhi march, page 8

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية، الرأى

SLA men evacuate Sidon

SIDON (R) — The Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia Tuesday evacuated the port of Sidon, South Lebanon's major city, ahead of Israel's planned withdrawal from the area next week. A Reuters correspondent saw about 150 SLA militiamen leaving their last three positions in Sidon late Tuesday afternoon, firing into the air and protected by Israeli tanks as they moved east. Three separate convoys comprising five tanks, five armoured patrol carriers, 21 trucks and 26 cars rolled out of the city within minutes of each other. Jubilant crowds took to streets virtually empty in recent days. In Beirut, militiamen greeted news of the SLA withdrawal with salvos of gunfire. Israeli troops are due to evacuate the Sidon area by Monday in the first stage of a pullback from the Awali River, occupied since their June 1982 invasion, but they are not coordinating the withdrawal with the Lebanese government.

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Abu Taleb receives U.S. congressman

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb Tuesday received Danny Lee Burton, an American Republican congressman currently on a visit to Jordan. Lt.-Gen. Abu Taleb briefed Mr. Burton on Jordan's defence policy and military issues of mutual concern to Jordan and the U.S. He also emphasised that the U.S. must respond to Jordan's defence needs.

U.S.-Soviet talks on Mideast to begin this month

WASHINGTON (R) — State Department officials said Tuesday that the Reagan administration is aiming for talks on the Middle East with the Soviet Union in Vienna later this month. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy is expected to lead the U.S. side in the talks. Officials say the purpose is to seek ways to avoid confrontation and is not a move to bring the Soviet Union into the Middle East peace process. The administration wants to discuss the situation in Afghanistan, where Soviet forces are battling rebel tribesmen, and the Iran-Iraq war, as well as the Arab-Israeli dispute, according to U.S. officials.

Egypt arrests 31 extremists

CAIRO (AP) — Security police arrested a medical doctor who claims to be the Prophet Mohammed and 30 of his extremist Muslim followers, the Middle East News Agency reported Tuesday. The state-run agency said state security prosecutors in Alexandria ordered the continued detention of 19 of the suspects but decided to release the other 12, some on bail. MENA identified the alleged leader as Dr. Sa' Toraykaa, who has a private clinic in Alexandria.

Dollar tops 3.30 marks

LONDON (R) — The dollar surged above 3.30 marks for the first time in more than 13 years Tuesday as it continued to scale fresh heights on the foreign exchange markets. The dollar was quoted at 3.3005 marks in late European trading, its highest rate since December 1971 and well up on its London close Monday night of 3.2752 marks. (See page 7). The U.S. currency also hit all-time highs against a wide range of other currencies, including sterling, which dropped to 1.0850 dollars. In Paris the dollar was fixed above 10 francs for the first time ever and later rose to 10.0425 francs.

Poland promises probe into spy case

NEW DELHI (R) — Polish Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski Tuesday promised an investigation and appropriate action if a Polish diplomat was involved in India's spy scandal. However, Gen. Jaruzelski told a press conference, because of Poland's friendly relations with India it had no need to resort to such methods. "Anything of interest to us in India can be acquired legally," he said.

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Jordan-PLO accord is based on 'U.N. resolutions, Fez plan'

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The agreement reached Monday between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a "framework for common action" for a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian question is based on the principle of exchanging land for peace as included in United Nations resolutions and the Fez Arab summit plan, official sources said Tuesday.

The sources said the agreement incorporated U.N. resolutions with the Fez plan which implicitly recognised Israel's right to exist within secure borders but did not commit itself to any specific U.N. resolution. Jordan and the PLO "have agreed to work together on the principle of exchange of territories for peace as included in U.N. resolutions and the Fez plan," the sources told the Jordan Times, adding that the two sides also agreed to work together for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The agreement, reached during a meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, was communicated to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, who is currently visiting Washington for talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, and also to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's political advisor Osama Al Baz, who was on a three-day visit in Amman.

Sources in Amman and Cairo told the Jordan Times that Mr. Arafat had already won the backing of the PLO Executive Committee and Central Council on the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. However, the PLO Executive Committee and Central Council are expected to meet in Algiers or Tunis in the next few days to discuss the endorsement of the agreement, the sources added.

Meanwhile, King Hussein left Amman for Algiers on a two-day official visit to discuss with President Chadli Benjedid the latest developments in the area and the Palestinian question. In Washington, President Reagan affirmed in a welcoming speech for King Fahd the importance of the agreement.

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of U.N. Resolution 242 as a basis for an Arab-Israeli settlement in the Middle East.

The PLO rejected Resolution 242 which did not clearly stipulate that all Arab territories occupied by Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war be returned and referred to the Palestinian problem as one of refugees.

The Fez plan of 1982 submitted by King Fahd calls for an independent Palestinian state on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Few hours after the announcement Monday of reaching an agreement on joint action between Jordan and the PLO, Mr. Arafat, who left Amman at 1 a.m. Tuesday for an unknown destination, said he was not optimistic that the agreement would evoke a positive U.S. response.

He told reporters at the Amman military airport that "We (Jordanians and Palestinians) will work together to find a just solution to the Middle East problem in accordance with Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions and this agreement between us and His Majesty."

The King proposed a joint Jordanian-Palestinian strategy in an inaugural speech to the PNC during its meeting in Amman last November. Among other things, the PNC resolutions backed a confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian state.

The King had proposed basing

the joint strategy on U.N. Resolution 242 which calls for Israel to withdraw from territories it occupied in the 1967 war in return for peace and secure boundaries.

Asked why he felt the agreement would not win the support of the United States, Mr. Arafat said: "I am not optimistic over this administration. It is completely biased to the Israeli point of view."

Mr. Arafat said he sought American recognition of the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, "a sacred right for all the people of the world."

During the ongoing Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, Jordan proposed a common Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which might evade Israel's refusal to negotiate directly with the PLO. The organisation had insisted on either a separate PLO team or a common Arab delegation involving other nations, sources told the Jordan Times recently.

In Cairo, President Mubarak was quoted as saying that Jordan and the PLO made "a good step forward" in their talks to formulate a joint strategy for Middle East peace talks with Israel. The Egyptian leader spoke after receiving a report on the Amman talks from Dr. Baz, who returned from Jordan Monday night.

Asked about the reported agreement, Mr. Mubarak replied: "Frankly, I cannot tell you any-

(Continued on page 3)

Israelis storm Lebanese village, kill 1, wound 3 and arrest 19

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli forces stormed a village in a U.N.-policed zone of South Lebanon Tuesday. One man was found dead after the raid, a United Nations spokesman said, and at least three others were reported wounded.

Israeli troops also blew up two houses in the encircled village of Toura east of Lebanon's southernmost port of Tyre, said Timur Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon.

Mr. Goksel said that the body of a villager was found about 200 metres outside Toura. He said that the man died of a gunshot wound but that the exact source of the fire had not been determined. UNIFIL officers also found one person injured in the village.

Reporters in the area said that a total of three had been wounded in the raid.

The raid by about 150 Israeli troops supported by tanks and armoured personnel carriers began at 7:30 a.m., reporters in

the area said. The Israelis conducted a house-to-house search and arrested 19 men in the village, including the Shi'ite Muslim religious leader. Reporters said that the siege ended at 3 p.m. (1300 GMT).

Two U.N. observers protested to an Israeli officer about treatment of the villagers, but he told the Israelis would "do as they wished," security sources quoted by Reuters said.

In Sidon, armed Lebanese police were standing by to take over pro-Israeli militia positions even before Israeli troops complete their withdrawal from the city, official sources said (See page 2).

Halim Fayyad, governor of the south, told Reuters internal security forces were ready to move into checkpoints abandoned by the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, which was due to leave Sidon Tuesday.

Reinforcements from elsewhere in the south had joined the force, Mr. Fayyad said without

giving their strength. "We have more police than there are militiamen manning the checkpoints."

Sidon's army garrison of 1,400 to 1,500 soldiers would deploy as soon as Israeli troops pulled out, he added.

Israeli troops also Tuesday arrested Sheikh Hussein Sarour, the imam (religious leader) of the Shi'ite district of Bourj Al Shemali near Tyre, and fired into the air when residents protested, security sources said.

The Israelis set up checkpoints to prevent people from entering a nearby Shi'ite orphanage and vocational school, the sources added.

Israeli troops wounded 30 people when they searched the Bourj Al Shemali area last week after 10 Israelis were injured in a reported suicide car bomb attack nearby.

It could not be determined whether the Israeli operations were

(Continued on page 3)

Gemayel, Assad discuss Israeli pullout

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian and Lebanese Presidents Hafez Al Assad and Amin Gemayel met here Tuesday for talks diplomatic sources said would focus on Lebanon's political, economic and security problems.

The two presidents went immediately into discussions at the state guest palace after Mr. Gemayel's arrival here by Lebanese army helicopter with a high-level team including Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Colonel Simon Yassir, the Lebanese army intelligence chief.

Syria's official news agency SANA said Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass was also involved in the talks, suggesting military issues linked to the impending Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon would be under review.

Official Lebanese sources said Mr. Gemayel planned to congratulate Mr. Assad on his reelection Monday to a third term of office. Tuesday's talks were interrupted by crowds who marched to the palace to greet Mr. Assad's reelection.

Both presidents, flanked by Mr. Karami, General Tlass and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a, went onto the palace balcony to watch the slogan-chanting crowd.

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Western diplomats said Mr. Gemayel might ask Mr. Assad to use his influence with pro-Syrian Lebanese militia leaders to help solve the Lebanon's political and economic problems.

Both Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Karami recently blamed sectarian militia groups, some of which are supported by Syria, for the problems. Mr. Karami said they had been robbing the people and the state treasury and blocking efforts to end anarchy in the streets.

Syria has for the past year been the main mediator in disputes between the Beirut government and leftist militia and has also strongly influenced Lebanon's foreign policy.

Later Tuesday, Mr. Gemayel flew back to Beirut. No details were available on the outcome of the talks.

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Lebanese army ready to deploy in South Lebanon, page 2

Herzog calls for Middle East dialogue

STRASBOURG (R) — Israeli President Chaim Herzog Tuesday called on the Arabs for talks on the Middle East, but contended that the Palestinian leadership was largely to blame for its people's problems.

Contrasting the last 40 years of peace in Europe with the tension in the Middle East, Northern Ireland-born Herzog told the European parliament he hoped the countries of the region would learn from moves towards international cooperation made by

the 10 European Community nations.

"Let us begin to talk, let us open a dialogue, let us forget the bitterness of the past and move forward on the basis of mutual respect and tolerance to a new era," he said.

"Had they (the Palestinians) entered the autonomy negotiations which Israel proposed at the outset, the Palestinian Arabs would now have been living in a regime of full autonomy and we

would by now have been in the concluding phase of negotiations on the final status of the territories," he said.

In other remarks, Mr. Herzog stressed the key role for United Nations forces in preventing communal strife in Lebanon as Israel withdrew its troops. He stressed that the blame for anything that happened there afterwards lay "squarely at the door of the Lebanese government and of its masters in Damascus."



His Highness Prince Mohammad bids farewell to His Majesty King Hussein upon the King's departure Tuesday for Algeria on an official two-day visit (Petra photo)

Hussein arrives in Algiers, begins talks with Benjedid

ALGIERS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid started official talks Tuesday on current Arab affairs and issues of common interest to Jordan and Algeria, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

King Hussein, accompanied by Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Jaseem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid, arrived here earlier Tuesday on an official two-day visit.

Petra did not give details of the King's talks with President Benjedid, which were attended by Mr. Obeidat, Mr. Jaseem, Mr. Masri and Gen. Sharif Zaid and senior Algerian officials, but it was believed that the King would brief the Algerian leader on the agreement reached Monday between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a "common Jordanian-Palestinian action to

achieve a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem."

The agreement, reached during a meeting in Amman Monday between King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, is based on United Nations resolutions and the Fez Arab summit plan of 1982, official sources told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

The King's visit to Algeria comes amid increased Arab diplomatic efforts to seek a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian problem. Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, who is currently visiting Washington, urged U.S. President Ronald Reagan Monday to support the Palestinian cause and reactivate U.S. efforts for peace in the Middle East and the U.S. president reassured the Saudi leader of U.S. commitment towards Middle East peace efforts.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is scheduled to visit Washington in March, to be closely followed by President Ben-

jedid. Algeria has been actively engaged for over a year in efforts to reconcile rival Palestinian groups and this month President Benjedid had talks in Algiers with several leading PLO figures.

Upon arrival here Tuesday, the King was accorded a grand welcome ceremony intended by President Benjedid and senior Algerian leaders.

The King and the accompanying delegation were seen off from Amman by His Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayez, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sulaiman Arar, cabinet members and senior officials and high-ranking army officers.

Before the King's departure, Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent.

Nigerian, 3 Israelis jailed in Dikko case

LONDON (R) — A Nigerian and three Israelis were jailed for a total of 46 years Tuesday after confessing that they drugged Nigeria's most wanted exile and tried to smuggle him from London to Lagos in an aircraft baggage crate.

The bizarre plot collapsed at nearby Stansted airport last July when customs officers opened the wooden crate and found the unconscious figure of former Nigerian Transport Minister Umaru Dikko, accused of massive corruption in his homeland.

Judge Sir Anthony McCowan, presiding at London's Old Bailey Court, told the four men:

"It must be made absolutely clear that the courts in this country will take an extremely grave view of any attempt to abduct by force and take overseas against his will a person lawfully living in this country."

The judge jailed Israeli ringleader Alexander Barak for 14 years and former Nigerian army Major Mohammed Yusufu for 12 years. Two other Israelis, Felix Abitbol and Dr. Lev-Arie Shapiro, were sent to prison for 10 years each.

During the two-day trial the court heard testimony alleging that both the Nigerian government and the Israeli secret service, Mossad, had been implicated in the abortive plot.

Mr. Dikko was kidnapped outside his luxurious London home last July 5, injected with drugs by Dr. Shapiro and then taken in the crate to the airport north of the capital.

Counsel for Barak, a 27-year-old diamond dealer, said his client believed that Mr. Dikko was responsible for "the economic rape of his own country."

Barak planned the kidnapping and recruited his two fellow Israelis to act in subordinate roles, the defence lawyer said.

Reagan reassures Fahd on U.S. role in Mideast

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan held a second round of talks Tuesday with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and assured the king he had not given up the U.S. Middle East peace plan.

The White House breakfast meeting followed talks Monday in which the king called for a more vigorous U.S. role in the Middle East peace process.

But Mr. Reagan, in an interview with the New York Times published Tuesday, reiterated Washington's contention that the way to peace is through direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan.

Mr. Reagan said he remained dedicated to his 1982 proposal for self-rule by Palestinians, in association with Jordan, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

But he said: "I don't believe it can be achieved without King Hussein of Jordan... with the permission of the Palestinians, representing them in direct negotiations with the Israelis."

Officials said the announcement would be "positive" if it helped movement towards negotiations and indicated awareness that direct talks with the Israelis were the way to proceed.

But they said crucial questions were whether there was acceptance of a key United Nations

resolution calling for exchange of territory for peace and whether the Arabs were in fact willing to talk with Israel directly.

Mr. Reagan said of his goals for the breakfast meeting with the Saudi ruler: "I'm going to talk to him, so that he knows we haven't retreated."

He noted that King Hussein and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had resumed talks and "we're hoping that this can now come to the point that there can be direct negotiations."

PLO leader Yasser Arafat said in Amman Monday that the PLO and Jordan had agreed on joint efforts to find a just, peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem.

Welcoming King Fahd to the White House on his first visit to Washington since 1977, Mr. Reagan Monday said he believed a just and lasting peace based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 "is within reach."

But the PLO rejects the resolution on the grounds that it deals with the Palestinian issue as one of refugees and makes no mention of Palestinian right to self-determination.

King Fahd, replying to Mr. Reagan, called the Palestinian problem "the root cause of insecurity."

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Arab Bank attains top rank in Asian deals

AMMAN — The Arab Bank has attained number one status among Arab banks in the world in syndicated loans management for 1984 in Asian deals, the bank said Tuesday.

The January 1985 issue

of Asia Banking states that the allocated share for the Arab Bank as lead manager in 1984 was \$226 million, a bank spokesman said. Also the bank's share as agent in syndicated loans for 1984 was \$183 million, he added.

Hassan briefs Italian military delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent Tuesday conferred with a delegation from the Italian Academy of Defence Studies, led by General Marin Rossi.

Prince Hassan welcomed the delegation to Jordan and briefed them on the Middle East question, the current developments in the region and the dangers threatening the area. Prince Hassan also answered questions put to him by the delegation's members. The meeting took place at the headquarters of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

Earlier, the delegation met with

Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani who outlined the different industrial projects being implemented in Jordan with particular reference to the phosphates, potash and fertiliser industries.

Dr. Anani also spoke about Jordan's historical background, the Kingdom's political stands and the cultural and archaeological sites in the country.

Dr. Anani referred to the strong relations between the Arab World and Italy, particularly the friendly relations between the Italian and Jordanian peoples.

Jordan-PLO accord is based on 'U.N. resolutions, Fez plan'

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thing about the contents. It is better to let Mr. Arafat talk about it before I say anything."

Mr. Mubarak denied reports of plans for a top-level three-way meeting of himself, Mr. Arafat and King Hussein, but he said he will meet King Hussein "by the end of this month." Mr. Mubarak already had said Cairo would be the venue of his next meeting with the King.

Saeed Kamal, a Cairo-based PLO official known to be close to Mr. Arafat, told the Associated Press on Monday there was "a possibility" of a Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian initiative towards peace negotiations with the support of Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iraq and other Arab countries.

Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said in a local newspaper interview last week a joint Jordanian-Palestinian strategy was "the starting point" for reactivating peace efforts which have been stalled for more than two years.

Reacting to the news of the Jordan-PLO agreement, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday it was unclear whether the agreement was a move towards peace with Israel.

"First we'll see what they agreed upon between them," Mr. Peres told schoolchildren in the northern port city of Haifa.

"Mr. Peres said Israeli would wait patiently" before reacting to the agreement.

But Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who is also deputy prime minister, took a harder line, telling the Yedioth Ahronoth

daily: "If Jordan wants peace with Israel, it has to cut all ties with the PLO. We will never negotiate with Arafat or with the PLO."

Reports of the Amman agreement met mixed reaction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hanna Signora, editor of the East Jerusalem daily Al Fajr (the Dawn), called the agreement a "historic accord."

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, a Palestinian leader who has frequently called for negotiations with Israel, said he hoped the Jordan-PLO move would revive the peace process.

But Bassam Shaka'a, former mayor of Nablus, contended that the agreement would deepen rifts in the Palestinian camp and allow Israel to continue building settlements in the occupied territory.

Abraham Kara'in, editor of the Al Awa newspaper, said "the agreement proves that the PLO is able to reach practical decisions which talk about a practical solution, according to the U.N.'s decisions."

Mr. Kara'in, speaking on Israel Radio in fluent Hebrew, also said he hoped Israel would not reject the agreement and would "exploit the opportunity."

Four Damascus-based Palestinian groups Tuesday strongly condemned the agreement.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Al Saika group and the Popular Struggle Front issued separate statements criticising the agreement.

The four groups boycotted the meeting of the PNC in Amman last November.

Israelis storm village

(Continued from page 1)

linked to the deaths of three Israeli soldiers in commando attacks in South Lebanon on Sunday.

Israeli jets attacked Palestinian bases in two raids in east Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley on Sunday and Monday, apparently in retaliation for killing of the Israeli troops.

At the United Nations, on Monday, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) protested over Israeli attacks on Palestinian civilians in Lebanon last week.

In a Feb. 6 letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the PLO said: "There is mounting anxiety among Palestinians that Israel and her mercenaries in the area are on the verge of a new wave of massacres."

Reagan reassures Fahd

(Continued from page 1)

stability and turmoil in the region."

King Fahd was the author of a peace plan adopted by the 1982 Arab summit in Foz. It calls for an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital and implicitly recognises Israel.

Abdullah rebukes U.S.

In Riyadh on Monday, Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah rebuked the U.S. administration for arming and supporting Israel.

"I say candidly that it is not Israel which is fighting us... what is fighting against us is the financial assistance and military support that Israel has been receiving from its backers," Prince Abdullah told a group of U.S. businessmen in Riyadh for an American-Saudi roundtable conference.

"But this won't last long, even in 50 or a hundred years, it will change."

His statement was widely interpreted here as an expression of displeasure over the U.S. Middle East policy. Saudi and other Arab leaders have accused Washington of anti-Arab pro-Israeli bias.

One unidentified American businessman asked Prince Abdullah to state his opinion on U.S.-Saudi ties and the current talks in Washington between President Reagan and King Fahd.

"There are many who would love to see the (king's) visit end in failure," Prince Abdullah replied.

"But here we are hopeful that the visit will find those in America who appreciate the positive dimensions of the king's visit. The Americans are our friends."

He said that the king "carries with him to America the hardships of more than 150 million Arabs... the enemies of Arab-American friendship wish to see the king's talks end in failure. But the king will put America face to face with its responsibility to history and humanity."

Prince Abdullah asked the U.S. businessmen: "Where's the international conscience? What Israel did to the Palestinian people and to the Lebanese people is a deep wound in the Arab body."

"Israel and its supporters still have ample time to understand events and realise that things change," he said. "Those who are powerful today might become weak tomorrow. We harbour no enmity against the Jews, we are not fanatical. But we are enemy to those (Israelis) who usurp our territory and massacre our women, children and old men."

Responding to a question, Prince Abdullah appealed to unidentified world powers to cease shipping weapons to Iran, urging the Tehran leadership to seek peace and end their war with Iraq.

If the 52-month-old war between Iran-Iraq were to continue, Prince Abdullah cautioned, "balances and calculations would be upset in this (Gulf) region."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday meets with an Italian defence academy delegation for talks on the Middle East situation (Petra photo)

Arar reaffirms government interest in developing public services

MADABA (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Suheiman Arar Tuesday reaffirmed that the government is keen to raise the standard of public services to Jordanians, especially in the fields of electricity, water, health, postal services and education.

The minister was speaking at a meeting held here with representatives of various public sectors in Madaba district and Dhiban and attended by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi and Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijem.

He said that the government wants to improve the living conditions of people in the rural regions to stem the migration of people to urban regions and to encourage settlement in rural regions.

The minister promised that requests presented in him will be studied carefully and said that an enlarged cabinet meeting will be held in Madaba district soon to discuss all different issues of concern to the local inhabitants. At the meeting Mr. Arar was presented with requests for opening a public works department, a post office and a new civil defence centre in Madaba.

Speaking at the meeting was Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijem who outlined his ministry's programmes for Madaba district which include opening and maintaining agricultural roads. The ministry has allocated JD 260,000 for opening numerous agricultural

roads in the district in a bid to encourage farmers to exploit their lands on a larger scale. Mr. Nijem said. Also, the main road linking Madaba with Ma'in hot springs will be enlarged and the ministry has allocated JD 800,000 for that project, half of which is already complete, the minister added.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi spoke about his ministry's plans for improving municipal services in Madaba district. He said that five joint rural services councils will be established in the district and promised that loans for Madaba municipality will be increased to enable it to complete a project for establishing a handicraft zone.

YWCA organises regional workshop for women in small-scale industries

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) is Jordan, in cooperation with the World YWCA in Geneva, will be holding a ten-day regional workshop on the "Management of Small-Scale Industries", as of Feb. 16, at the YWCA in Amman.

This workshop will focus on different topics of management: pricing, marketing of products as well as the role of small-scale industries in contrast with the large scale industrial concerns. The workshop will also tackle business problems facing women in small-scale industries.

The workshop will be conducted by experts from the World YWCA in Geneva, Mrs. Tapati Das, management consultant for small-scale industries, Mrs. Maureen Berlin, consultant and director of skill development for underprivileged women and Mrs. Ruth Sovik, general secretary of the World YWCA. In addition to these three experts, local experts will be participating in the workshop. In addition to 23 participants from different YWCA centres located in refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank and Egypt.

Promoting self-sufficiency

The regional workshop, which is the first such workshop to be held in Jordan, aims to upgrade

the level of women who work in small-scale industries in an innovative attempt to increase their self-sufficiency and means of supporting themselves, which in turn could give women partial independence.

According to Mrs. Leila Diab, general secretary at the YWCA in Amman and a member of the planning committee: "Such a regional workshop will offer vocational and practical training for women working in small-scale industries, such as YWCA's centre in Baqa'a refugee camp, which is currently producing school uniforms as well as restaurant, nursing and doctors' uniforms." She added that women could become more financially independent through such workshops.

Nijem emphasises Arab heritage of Jerusalem

Following is the text of a working paper compiled by Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijem which will be presented to a conference on "Islamic Architectural Heritage and its Preservation" to be held in Istanbul, Turkey between April 22-26.

AMMAN — The international historical authorities confirm that the Jews were the first people to settle in Jerusalem in 3,000 B.C. They were descendants of the Canaanites who came from the Arabian peninsula. The Jews arrived in Jerusalem for the first time fleeing from the Pharaoh in 1350 B.C. Even the name given today by the Israelis to Holy Jerusalem, "Yerushalayim" is Babylonian in its root. The word is composed of "Yeru" meaning "City" and "Shalayim", which means "Peace", the city of peace.

Various nations successively occupied Jerusalem throughout history. It was occupied by the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Persians, the Greeks and Romans who expelled the Jews during the reign of Hadrian in 135 A.D., destroyed the remains of the second temple entirely, and made Jerusalem out of bounds to the Jews.

The Arabs, on the other hand, settled in Jerusalem and Palestine throughout history and without interruption. When Islam emerged in the Arabian peninsula, the Prophet Muhammad encouraged Muslims to seek Jerusalem. He sent three expeditions. His successor Abu Bakr sent four expeditions. But Omar Bin Al-Khattab, the second Caliph, was able through his field commander, Abu Obeida Bin Al-Jarrah, to conquer Jerusalem in 636 A.D. Jerusalem remained under Muslim

rule during the Umayyads, Abbasids and Fatimids until it was occupied by the crusaders.

Salahadin defeated the crusaders and brought back Jerusalem under Muslim rule in 1187 A.D. The Ottomans and the Ottomans ruled Jerusalem until 1918, when it was brought under British rule. The British mandate accorded the Jews rights that they had no authority to give: colonial and Zionist conspiracies were hatched to Judaize Holy Jerusalem and backed by the U.S., Israel still today occupies this holy city.

In its efforts to project and preserve the Islamic monuments in Holy Jerusalem, the Jordanian government has asked the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to include Jerusalem among the list of international heritage. Another request was lodged with UNESCO to include Jerusalem in the list of international heritage threatened by destruction. Two resolutions were passed by UNESCO despite protestations by Israel and the USA.

Almost all the historic buildings in Jerusalem are occupied by poor families. Some of these buildings are under Waqf, leased to poor families. This of course leads to damage of these buildings which were originally built as schools, mosques or almshouses. On the other hand, evicting these residents would contribute to the Israeli efforts to Judaize the city and drain it of its Muslim population.

It is, therefore, necessary to restore and maintain these historic buildings, and let the residents continue occupying them.

Restoration problems

Other problems being encountered in the restoration efforts in Jerusalem include the difficulty of transporting building materials to the inner part of the city. The lanes are very narrow for the vehicles. The interlocking architectural fabric of Jerusalem requires that restoration be under-

taken for blocks or groups of structures, but not single buildings. The financial resources of the residents are meagre because of the economic and social pressure exerted by the Israeli occupation forces. The appreciation of this cultural heritage by the residents, especially poor families, is almost lacking. It is also very difficult to enforce regulations for the preservation of heritage under Israeli occupation. Some of the residents have erected new structures in these historic buildings, such as toilets. Such actions had led the restoration authority in Holy Jerusalem to see that these created structures were demolished to preserve the original structures as they had been originally built.

Despite the harassments of the Israeli occupation, restoration projects have been achieved since setting fire to the Al Aqsa Mosque in August 1969. Such projects included restoration of the Holy Mosque itself, Waqf buildings, Katanih Sup, Al Jawhariah School and other historic buildings. Restoration projects are in progress involving Al Kilaniyah, School, Rabat Al Kard, and Al Mazhariah School. These later projects were approved by the Centre for Restoration and Maintenance of Islamic Monuments in Holy Jerusalem, which was created by the Arab League. Restoration works are being carried out by the archaeological unit of the Waqf Department in Jerusalem and assisted by the Construction Committee of the Holy Mosque.

The Jews, on the other hand, are frantically prepared to erect the Third Temple. However, they are in disagreement regarding its site. The archaeological excavations have not led them to any indication as to the whereabouts of its location. Coordination and cooperation between the various Arab and Islamic authorities concerned about the Arab-Islamic heritage and holy places in Jerusalem are urgently called for. The progress of restoration works will depend upon the allocation of necessary funds. The Israeli's challenge cannot be contained without the cooperation and coordination of Arab-Islamic efforts.



General view of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives (J.T. files photo)

American team continues fact finding tour

Regent, U.S. congressmen review Mideast issues

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent Tuesday received a delegation of American congressmen and reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East issue and the current situation of the occupied Arab territories. The two Republican congressmen are currently in Amman on a fact finding tour of the region.

The delegation, which arrived in Amman Sunday on an official visit sponsored by the World Affairs Council, also met Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and held talks on the Middle East issue.

Akef Al Fayed, speaker for the Lower House of Parliament, also received the U.S. delegation Monday and briefed them on Israel's arbitrary measures against West Bank and Gaza citizens, including deportations and confiscation of land and property.

The congressmen will also visit the Israeli occupied West Bank as part of their tour.

Robert Lago Masino, a Republican congressman from Ventura constituency in California had earlier visited the University of Jordan where they met with its acting president Mahmoud Al Samra. Dr. Samra briefed the guests on the university and pointed out that the university has been contributing to national development plans ever since its establishment.

He also underlined the university's role in promoting education for the benefit of Jordanian individuals and the country as a whole. Dr. Samra explained the university's strategy, policy and philosophy and added that it is open to the local community.

The delegation toured the university's premises including the Faculties of Engineering, Technology and Sciences and the library.

On Monday, the two congressmen met with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri who discussed Jordan's call for an international peace conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices and said such a conference is the most essential medium to achieve a just and durable peace in the region. Mr. Masri said that to make such a conference a success all concerned parties and the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council should attend it.

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9 kindergarten fire victims leave hospital

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nine children injured in a fire which broke out at a Salt kindergarten this week left Salt Hospital Monday, health officials said. The fire, which took place Sunday, caused first and second degree burns to twelve children at the Salt Islamic Society Kindergarten. According to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, the fire was caused by a kerosene heater placed in the children's room.

Minister of Health Kamel Ajlouni Tuesday decided to transfer three badly injured children from Salt Hospital to Al Hussein Medical Centre in Amman where the three children will undergo treatment as well as plastic surgery.

Dr. Ajlouni announced that the Ministry of Health will pay the expenses for the three children's medical treatment at Al Hussein Medical Centre.

A committee including representatives from Balqa Governorate and directorates of health, education, social development, police and members of the Balqa Civil Defence Department have inspected Balqa kindergartens to make sure of the availability of basic safety requirements.

Fayez, parliamentary team leave for talks in Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation left for Cairo Tuesday for a week-long visit to Egypt at the invitation of Dr. Rifat Al Mahjoub, speaker of the Egyptian People's Council.

The delegation is led by Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayed, who, in a pre-departure statement, paid tribute to the brotherly ties between Egypt and Jordan. The visit is one more step towards cementing relations with Egypt which has a very significant and historic role to play in uniting the Arabs and serving the nation's causes, Mr. Fayed said.

Jordan's step to restore relations with Egypt should be copied by all Arab countries which believe in the common destiny of the Arab people, he added.

During the visit, Mr. Fayed said that he will meet with Egyptian Prime Minister Kamel Hassan Ali and senior Egyptian officials to discuss Arab and international affairs. Mr. Fayed is accompanied on the visit by 16 members of the Lower House of Parliament and a number of officials.

Authority to review tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of directors of the Jordan Tourism Authority will meet Thursday under the chairmanship of Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities and Acting Minister of Information Taher Hikmat. The meeting is scheduled to discuss ways of improving internal and external tourism as well as the licensing and classifying of a number of tourist and travel agencies, hotels and tourist shops.

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Jordanian bedouins enshrine Arab virtues

By Musa Keilani

JORDAN is the only Arab country where a visitor gets the chance to feel the real impact of bedouin life on several aspects of a modern society. A modernised version of a bedouin dress is always present as part of the official uniform used by guards of honour greeting heads of state on their arrival at Amman Airport. The desert patrol enshrines the bedouin heritage as well as they accurately reflect the delicate balance of power, numerically, between the various tribes whether they be the Beni Sakhr of central Jordan to Beni Hassan of northern Jordan or to Al Huweitat of southern Jordan.

A bedouin's Spartan life and early training in some martial arts make him an excellent candidate for a professional military life. Till now many tribes prefer for their members to join the army and start a mil-

itary career rather than accept any other more lucrative job. This is the case among the majority of Al-Abbad, Al-Adwan, Al-Ajarmeh, Al-Sarhan, Al-Suradiya, Beni Hamida, Al-Balqawi tribes as well as city dweller tribes in Salt, Kerak, Ma'an, Tafilah, Irbid and Aqaba.

Though, statistically, the bedouins are less than three per cent of the Jordanian population according to the latest census, many Ammanite Jordanians are proud of their bedouin origin. That pride is ascribed to the bedouin ethos which is justly viewed as an ideal to be emulated and as a noble moral code to be followed. Hospitality, generosity, courage, honour and self-respect are the five pillars the bedouin ethos is built on.

The Arab desert exemplifies the heroic age which sublimated the motivational drives

of its inhabitants into deeds of glory and pride. The word desert is "badiya" in Arabic; hence we have the word "badawi" or bedouin. The desert bedouin enjoyed a high reputation of nobility since the old days when the Prophet Mohammad was sent as a boy to one of the bedouin tribes to absorb the best and noblest in the national tradition, manners, customs, and way of life. Till now some Arab philologists rely on Jordanian, Kuwaiti and Najdi tribes regarding fine points in pronunciation and derivatives.

The bedouin leads a life which has not changed much since he domesticated the camel in the eleventh century B.C. Moving with his camel, the ship of the desert, the Arab bedouin guarded for us in the 20th century the purity of language, blood and tradition. Even his "thawb", long cloak "abab" "Kuffiya" and "Iqal"

did not change since early descriptions of Arabs by Greek historians more than two thousand years ago. The desert life moulded in its inhabitants a rugged individuality which does not lend easily to authority and whose loyalty is confined to the family, the sheikh, and the "qabila" — tribe.

Jordanian bedouins are patrilineal and patriarchal society, all of whom are kin-oriented or kin-based. Dr. Ahmad Owaid Al-Abbadi in his excellent book "Jordanian Tribes", which was published recently, shows how each extended bedouin family traces their descent to one common patrilineal ancestor. Such an extended family forms one social unit which camps together, looks for water and pasture together, and practices endogamy. Consequently, a strongly developed feeling of cohesion was created amongst them. Several wandering units for-

med one subtribe, and several of these formed one tribe, and several tribes formed one confederation, tribally speaking. The challenge of the desert made Arab bedouins abide by certain values, moral code, structures, and ethics. Lack of water made the desert incapable of supporting all inhabitants. So whenever a tribe was lucky enough to find some water, it protected the place and protected its members from attack by others. So tribal cohesion was the first lesson that the desert taught. Each member was committed to group solidarity and mutual responsibility. Due to the external challenge, members feel the great pressure to conform and to uphold the group values and ethics. Since a member is doomed to be lost if he is not supported and protected by his tribe, he has to pay the price of identifying his image with that

of his tribe. He internalises his tribes aspirations, love, glory, revenge and enmity. By keeping his individuality intact, he contributes more to his tribes vigour than by submerging it. The bedouin ethos is seen in the bravery, manliness (murou'a) and group cohesion manifested by the *khamasa* concept. The *khamasa* is the group who will always support a member against an outsider. They are the male relatives nearest to him within five male links. They share his glory and his shame. They are to defend and avenge him and are also target of revenge if he happens to be the aggressor. Therefore, a bedouin thinks of his *khamasa* and tribe before committing besmearing deeds. This way there was less bloodshed in the desert. The desert made a mandatory guideline the virtues of hospitality, generosity and honour.

Largely good news

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of the agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a joint political strategy to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict by negotiations is largely good news, but should not yet send the hopeful folks of the world dancing for joy about peace in the holy land. The fact is, what Jordan and the PLO have put together, only a joint, pan-Arab action can prevent from being torn asunder. The details of the agreement still have to be announced, and to pass the scrutiny of the other Arab states and friendly powers around the world who have aspirations of playing a helpful role in Middle Eastern diplomacy. We hope that what Jordan and the PLO have agreed upon can serve as the basis of a united Arab peace stand, which in turn could lead us into peace negotiations with the Israelis.

The fact remains, however, that the Arab World has been talking about peace for many years, and for the last two and a half of those years we have had general agreement on the Fez resolutions and the need for an international peace conference as a forum to make peace with Israel. We are lacking neither peaceful intentions, nor a proposed mechanism to attain peace and co-existence. What we have always lacked is the political will and diplomatic ability to translate our passive peace overtures into dynamic negotiations.

The Jordan-PLO agreement may help overcome this chronic Arab deficiency, and finally put the American-Israeli combine in a position where one has called its bluff about wanting to negotiate peace with the Arabs.

Jordan, PLO closer to a joint approach to peace

By Ibrahim Noori

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed how to tackle the Palestinian issue, but diplomats believe a breakthrough in reviving the stalled Middle East Peace process is still far away.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said on leaving Amman early Tuesday that he and King Hussein had agreed on joint efforts to find a just, peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem.

The King later flew to Algeria where he was expected to seek support for the Jordan-PLO

move. Neither side spelled out the Amman accord, but one diplomat said Tuesday: "One aspect of the agreement can be seen in King Hussein's visit to Algeria today, just to force the pace of Arab Political action towards peace."

"There is nothing exceptional yet," he added.

The Jordan-PLO move, attacked by Syrian-based Palestinian dissidents, coincided with a visit to Washington by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia who asked President Reagan Monday for a more active U.S. role in the search for Middle East peace.

The Saudi monarch will be fol-

lowed in Washington by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak next month and Algerian President Cheddi Benjedid in April.

Algeria is a political ally of Syria, which has attacked cooperation between Jordan, the PLO and Egypt and demanded that Mr. Arafat step down as PLO leader.

Diplomats said King Hussein's trip to Algeria was part of a diplomatic campaign launched last September when Jordan restored ties with Cairo, broken over the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty. "Algerian support could swing other Arab moderates such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq to publicly

support the Jordan-PLO Egyptian axis," one diplomat said.

Mr. Arafat evaded reporters' questions on whether his talks with King Hussein covered United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, which Jordan has offered the PLO as the basis for a joint approach to bringing peace to the area.

The PLO has refused to accept the resolution on the grounds that it dealt with the Palestinian issue as one of refugees and made no mention of their right of self-determination and statehood. Radio Jordan quoted Mr. Arafat as saying that Jordan and the PLO had agreed "to move in the

international arena for the sake of the Palestinian question — the welfare of our people and the Arab Nation."

He said any Middle East peace process should be through a conference of all parties concerned, including the PLO, Israel and the United States, opposed to an international conference under U.N. auspices, favour direct talks between the Arabs and Israel.

"Israel's security and the legitimate rights of the Palestinians can and should be addressed in direct negotiations," Mr. Reagan told King Fahd Monday.

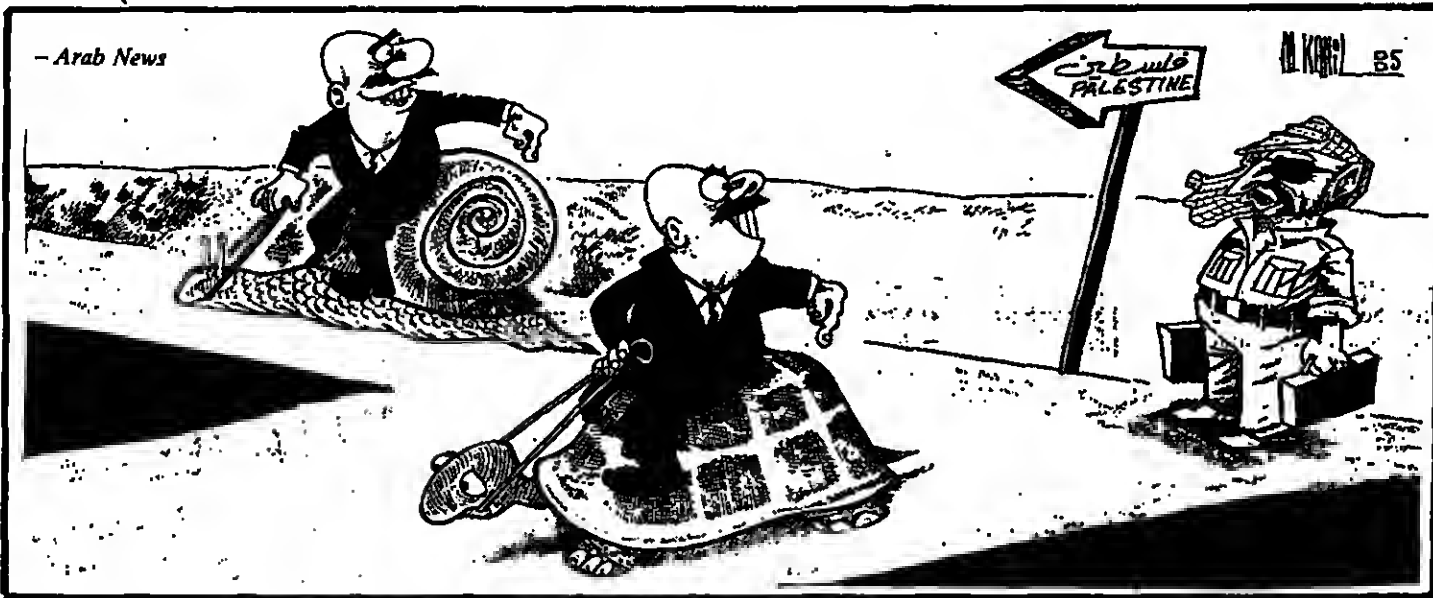
A PLO official, questioned on Mr. Arafat's statement, told Reu-

ters there was no change in the PLO's declared position based on a 1982 Arab peace plan, adopted at a summit meeting in Fez, Morocco, and rejected by Israel.

The plan calls for an independent Palestinian state and implicitly recognises Israel's right to exist.

"We adhere to this unanimous Arab position, until new steps are agreed upon at another conference attended by all Arab countries," he added.

Arab leaders have been unable to hold a summit conference since the Fez meeting because of inter-Arab differences.



Reagan plays down inter-alliance troubles

By R. Gregory Nokes

WASHINGTON — When President Ronald Reagan said in his State of the Union address that "Our alliances are stronger than ever," he was overlooking the breakdown in the Defence pact with Australia and New Zealand and the nearly ignored 1947 Rio Treaty.

There also are problems in NATO, the nation's most important military alliance, although it is generally regarded as being in better shape than when Mr. Reagan took office.

Mr. Reagan doesn't always like to admit things are not going well. So, just as he didn't mention Lebanon in his address Wednesday night, after giving it prominence a year ago, he also chose to ignore the unraveling of the ANZUS pact with Australia and New Zealand in the past week.

Mr. Reagan persisted Thursday, telling reporters, "our ANZUS alliance is very sound and very solid."

But a senior State Department official conceded reporters later that "New Zealand could hardly be said now to have the status of a good ally."

It's an unfortunate imbroglio because New Zealand has long had a successful democracy and has been among America's closest allies.

The falling out has come over the attitude of New Zealand's new government towards nuclear weapons. It doesn't like them. And although it continues to express friendship for the United States, it decided last week to bar an American warship carrying nuclear weapons.

The administration expressed its "grave concern" at New Zealand's stand and cancelled a joint naval exercise. Administration officials have suggested the United States might retaliate by denying trade advantages.

Washington was dealt another setback by the third ANZUS member, Australia, which last week cancelled an earlier offer to provide support facilities for American MX missile tests.

ANZUS was established by the three nations in 1951, and the three nations periodically carry out joint military exercises.

One obvious reason for administration dismay over New Zealand's attitude towards nuclear weapons is that it could encourage anti-nuclear forces in Japan and

Europe to also demand curbs on the presence of U.S. nuclear weaponry.

Although not as serious as the problems with ANZUS, there are also strains in the 17-nation NATO alliance.

Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger last week accused the Socialist government of Greece, a NATO member since 1951, of stirring up "very damaging anti-American feeling" that he claimed may have encouraged the terrorist bombing at an Athens bar Saturday. That blast injured 69 American servicemen and their dependents.

Another NATO member, Belgium, is dragging its feet on scheduled deployment of new U.S. missiles next month, although the expectation is that deployment will be carried out on schedule.

Spain's membership in NATO is in doubt because that nation's Socialist government was elected on a platform that called for withdrawal from NATO.

And there is a potential minefield under the road for NATO if the Geneva arms talks with Moscow flounder over New Zealand's pet "Star Wars" defence plan, which has not been met with much enthusiasm by the allies.

All that said, however, there probably is more cohesion among the key members of NATO — the United States, West Germany, Britain and France than there has been since détente began to fall apart in the late 1970s.

The third U.S. regional defence alliance, the 1947 Rio Treaty for the Western Hemisphere, generally has been bypassed in the current Central American conflict, even though one of its purposes was to formulate peaceful resolutions of disputes.

Twenty years ago, the Organisation of American States invoked the Rio Treaty to impose diplomatic and economic sanctions on Cuba. It also was used to send a regional military force to the Dominican Republic in 1965, to suppress a popular uprising.

The other major post-World War II alliances, SEATO and CENTO, are all but forgotten. SEATO, for Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation, was dissolved in 1977 after the Vietnam conflict. CENTO, for the Middle East, was disbanded in 1979 after the Iranian Revolution.

Unless a compromise is found soon for the current ANZUS crisis, this defence pact, too, could become a footnote to history.

Something fishy is going on in Pinochet's Chile

By Barbara Koepfel

NEW YORK — There is something rotten in Chile.

On Feb. 2 the country's military rulers renewed the state of siege that they had imposed in early November — the very day Ronald Reagan was reelected. This time they cited "domestic commotion." Before, it was terrorists who were threatening the country's order and calm. Force, the leadership now declared, must be met with force.

In a stroke, massive repression was unleashed. Troops swooped on slums in pre-dawn raids, hunting, they said, for criminals. Thousands of people were rounded up and hundreds were sent into internal exile.

Political and human rights offices were ransacked and the press was silenced: Six of seven opposition publications that had become a forum for dissent and a key element in the national protests were instantly shut. Radio and even pro-government mainstream newspapers were muzzled, forbidden to print or to broadcast political news or anything that would "create alarm."

That terrorism and commotion exist is fact and few Chileans doubt it. When the anti-terrorist law was decreed last June, bombs were set off at power stations and outside banks in Santiago. Responsibility was claimed by a radical group, the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, that believes the general and his government must be overthrown by force and sabotage.

In a large number of cases, however, it is not too clear who are the terrorist and who causes the commotion. Consider the following cases that occurred last year.

In May a couple were picked up by police, beaten and tortured until unconscious. The husband awoke in front of an electrical tower just in time to see an ignited fuse. He dragged himself away but his wife was not so fortunate: The bomb exploded, killed her and heavily damaged the installation. Unaware that the husband had escaped, the authorities announced on television that a woman terrorist had died while placing explosives. Alarmed by the husband, the Catholic Church's human rights office hid him, publicised the real story and arranged for him to leave Chile.

In September a bomb exploded in a church in the southern city of Punta Arenas. Church people entered soon after the blast and found the body of a man whose identity cards revealed as a lieutenant in the army branch connected with the CNI, Chile's intelligence unit.

In October police forced a nurse midwife out of her car in Santiago and drove it away. Authorities to whom she complained said she would get it back soon. After it reappeared a few days later, it was



destroyed by a bomb police claimed was planted by terrorists.

And in a practice which is by now commonplace, police deposit guns, ammunition and revolutionary literature in someone's home, usually in a slum. Next they call in the state-controlled television crews to film the cache and announce that terrorists' arms were discovered and the guilty have been arrested.

Most Chileans now doubt that the bulk of such acts are the work of the groups the government calls terrorists. Moreover, observers say that the state of siege was invoked to thwart not terrorism but the increasingly organised and successful protests against General Pinochet's regime. "These, and not the terrorists, are the real threat to their control," said one radio broadcaster.

Because repression is now rampant and sophisticated, dissent has been squelched. Says one community leader: "The raids, torture, arrests and imprisonment have nearly destroyed our spirit. Before there were protests, now there is terror."

The Reagan administration is not so well informed as the Chileans. In late October it was concerned by "the steady increase in terrorist bombings, efforts by nondemocratic sectors to foment violence."

In early November, commenting on the state of siege, the U.S. State Department questioned the heavy-handed tactics but nevertheless noted that "we recognise there is a serious terrorist problem in Chile that needs to be dealt with."

Washington gives no bilateral aid, since Chile was never certified due to its abysmal human rights record. But until recently, when the United States abstained in a vote on an Inter-American Development Bank loan, it has continued to approve aid in the World Bank, the IADB and the IMF. Since 1981, loans from the first two institutions totaled just under \$1.6 billion. That is the stuff that General Pinochet's order and calm are made of.

The writer is executive director of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists. She contributed this to the International Herald Tribune.

Al Ra'i: Israeli message received

AS THE Zionist enemy pursues escalation of raids on civilian targets in Lebanon, observers noted that the Israeli leaders wanted to make a message understood in Washington. This message is that the Israelis will continue to strike inside Lebanon at will and will refuse to accept any initiative designed to end the Middle East question.

The message came at the outset of President Reagan's second term in office and as the Israelis are pulling their forces to new lines in South Lebanon. It was a clear message, and the United States has understood it well. That is why Washington has not shown any sign of discontent at Israel's air raids on children's schools and a home for the aged in Lebanon.

The United States supports Israel's actions whether these actions were reasonable or criminal because it believes the Zionist enemy is a civilised human being trying to defend the state of Israel from terrorist attacks.

The situation will remain the same for a long time until the United States realises the danger inherent in such Israeli actions and until it decides to shoulder its international responsibilities and honour its commitments.

Al Dustour: Bolstering joint efforts

THE JORDANIAN-Palestinian agreement on joint moves to solve the Palestine question represents a very important and positive step, bolstering efforts aimed at a settlement.

The agreement reflects the true desire of the two sides to save the Arab inhabitants from occupation rule and liberate the Palestinian land. The Jordanians and the Palestinians, who have a common destiny and identical views about the whole question have thus laid the cornerstone for a nucleus of a unified Arab stand.

The Arab countries which at the Fez summit opted for a political settlement, find in this agreement an effective tool with which to help the Europeans, the United Nations and other world organisations to solve the Middle East issue and bring about peace to the region. The United States should take note of this agreement and should also note the great step taken by the PLO on the way of accepting a political option, and the Palestinians' sincere desire to reach a just peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Approaching joint formula

THE JORDANIAN-Palestinian agreement on joint moves for solving the Palestine problem came amidst Arab and international moves aimed at finding a just solution to the whole Middle East question. The agreement coincided with talks going on in Washington between King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the Reagan administration. It also followed an announcement that the Soviet Union and the United States will tackle the Middle East among other world issues.

A joint formula based on the principle of exchanging peace for land and in harmony with U.N. resolutions should be acceptable by the international community and should help Arab diplomacy to make renewed moves in the international arena. The agreement reflects the desire and sincerity on both the Jordanian and Palestinian sides to reach settlement and to end the prevalent no-war no-peace situation with Israel and end the state of paralysis in the region.

The agreement is only one step in a new stage of struggle for achieving right and justice for the Palestinians and a move in the right direction aimed at regaining Arab rights.

Failing oil market threatens Indonesia's plans

By Peter Millership

JAKARTA — Indonesia's recent one-dollar oil price cut may not significantly alter the country's economic course, but Western economists are worried a further slump in the oil market could seriously threaten its development plans.

Ample foreign exchange reserves and sound economic management by the nation's planners mean the world's fifth most populous country has a stronger economy than many other developing nations.

"But there are dark clouds on the horizon," one senior Western

banker said. "Slow industrial development and slipping oil prices could cause big trouble for an oil-dependent economy like Indonesia's."

Oil accounts for almost 70 per cent of Indonesia's earnings and diplomats say a slump in oil prices coupled with low investment could aggravate rural and urban unemployment, further fuelling social unrest.

In the past four months there have been a Muslim riot and a spate of mystery bombs and fires in Jakarta.

The tropical archipelago, OPEC's only Southeast Asian member, stands to lose far more

than its richer Gulf allies in the exporter group from an oil price collapse.

Economy Minister Ali Wardana shrugged this month's price cut off, saying it would cost Indonesia only \$300 million — 1.4 per cent of total annual export earnings.

"The impact of the cut on the economy will be limited," he said. But President Suharto is struggling to bridge the enormous gap between rich and poor and knows his vision of launching the country on a new industrial era next century hinges on income from crude sales abroad.

Uneven wealth distribution, cited as a factor behind the Muslim riot, is seen as a destabilising factor by a government anxious to preserve the unity of Indonesia.

Indonesia has the highest population of OPEC — 160 million — and the lowest per capita income: \$560 a year.

President Suharto has urged Oil Minister Subroto, president of OPEC, to maintain unity among the 13 members of the group in order to support the fragile world oil market and to maintain the flow of vital funds for development.

Progress in abolition of forced labour

DESPITE significant progress in recent decades, forced or compulsory labour still exists in many countries. The International Labour Organisation (ILO), in its World Labour Report, notes that although 126 member states have ratified the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, and 108 have ratified the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957, the phenomenon of forced labour still persists in some parts of the world.

Although the principles on which the international conventions on the abolition of forced labour are based, almost universally recognised, they are not always fully applied in practice. What is more, certain provisions of national legislation adopted for economic reasons often result in imposing labour on certain mem-

Difficult to outlaw

Certain unlawful practices, such as slavery, debt bondage or the use of force to recruit or retain workers, remain difficult to abolish by legislative action alone. Although laws permitting the exaction of labour for the performance of work in the public interest, compulsory crop cultivation and the recovery of taxes — forms of com-

pulsory labour inherited from a colonial past — have for the most part been repealed, the report observes that in some countries such provisions have been included in new laws, especially those regulating agricultural activities. It also indicates that several governments have referred to the need for rapid economic development to justify the adoption of new laws giving the central or local authorities broad powers to recruit or requisition labour.

"The problems which these governments have thought they could solve by resorting to coercion were due to geographical and structural imbalances in the utilisation of labour, the true solution to which lies in an overall employment policy," the report says.

Moreover, certain legal provisions of a general nature may involve the imposition of compulsory labour. In a number of countries labour codes and even constitutions regard work as a duty, sometimes as a corollary to the right to work. In many cases this is merely a moral principle. In some countries, however, it takes the form of a general obligation to take up employment recognised by the authorities, which calls into question the observance of conventions. A similar compulsion may result from penal provisions on vagrancy or analogous offences, which may be very broadly defined.

The report shows that existing forms of compulsory labour frequently comprise systems using national service and conscription,

although certain countries have made efforts to limit these provisions to emergency situations. Similarly, the requisition and assignment of young professionals — doctors, dentists, pharmacists, engineers, teachers — is permitted by law in some countries for varying periods.

In certain countries breaches of labour discipline involving neither serious consequences nor participation in a strike are the subject of penalties involving the obligation to work.

Freedom of opinion

But it is in the delicate area of freedom of opinion that the report notes the least positive results. Although some cases of progress

have been recorded, where provisions under which penalties involving compulsory labour could be imposed have been repealed, in many countries of all continents "the manifestation of political or ideological opposition and freedom of expression are still the subject of heavy restrictions enforced by penalties involving compulsory prison labour," the report says.

Although there are no particular grounds for satisfaction, the report notes "encouraging" progress in the application by member states of the two ILO forced labour conventions. In this connection the many repeals of texts which are contrary to the conventions hold some promise for the future — ILO release.

New Le Monde chief will fight to keep newspaper independent

By Alison Maitland
Reuter

PARIS — The man chosen to shake up Le Monde and save it from financial disaster is adamant that one thing will remain untouchable — the newspaper's prized independence.

Elected editor-in-chief by Le Monde's journalists in mid-January, Andre Fontaine, 63, is busy seeking changes to set one of the world's best-known newspapers on the road to recovery.

But he told Reuters in an interview: "The priority is really the absolute independence of the newspaper and the impartiality of its information."

Mr. Fontaine, a distinguished foreign affairs writer, has been with Le Monde for 37 of its 40 years. He has seen it through its early struggles, its period of prosperity and its plunge over the last three years into a crisis described by one government minister as "a national emergency".

Circulation fell to an estimated 365,000 last year from a high point of 440,000 in the late 1970s. Advertising revenue has been squeezed by recession and the paper now had an accumulated deficit of 80 million francs (\$8.2 million).

Mr. Fontaine, an habitué of diplomatic circles who once turned down an offer from former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's government to be ambassador in Peking, took over at the head of Le Monde from Andre Laurens.

While Mr. Laurens had failed to win confidence in his rescue plan, most staff have rallied round Mr. Fontaine, seeing him as a new hope for the future of the prestigious daily. But he acknowledges that the danger of bankruptcy is still present.

The newspaper has no reserves left. So Mr. Fontaine has won agreement from staff that Le Monde should seek outside funds, a move unprecedented in the newspaper's history.

"If we don't make the effort to reduce costs and convince investors to help us by persuading them that the company is profitable, then we don't stand a chance," he said.

Labour costs account for 44 per cent of the newspaper's turnover. "A luxury that no business can afford," he says. A cut in salaries is under discussion, while another idea is to share one of Le Monde's two printing works with other Paris dailies.

But if Mr. Fontaine regards outside capital as desirable, he says such funds would have to be minority contributions from diverse

sources to preserve the newspaper's independence. "We are looking for capital that in no way affects the editorial policy of the paper," Mr. Fontaine said.

Many readers have offered financial help, but he is hesitant about seeing them become shareholders.

"I wouldn't do it behind our good readers there emerged interest groups whose identity we perceived too late," he said.

While Mr. Fontaine and his new managerial team draw up the rescue plan they will put to staff within three months, he has already gone to work to live up to Le Monde's rather drab visual impact.

Small photographs and graphics have crept in to brighten the weighty chunks of prose that make Le Monde exhausting as well as exhaustive reading. The front page is bolder and less cluttered and a colour magazine is planned at the year's end.

"I put a lot of emphasis on communicating," Mr. Fontaine says.

But can these discreet changes win over a young generation that prefers television, video or the upbeat, provocative style of Liberation, the only Paris daily whose sales are rising?

"We're living in an audiovisual age," a trainee journalist reminded a group of Le Monde representatives recently. "Don't you think your paper's a bit sterner? Pictures exist, you know."

But the newspaper's journalists, while recognising they must adapt to a modern world, believe that no radical change in style might alienate the hard core of faithful readers on whom they depend.

Mr. Fontaine himself rejects shock treatment, but says the newspaper needs "a wash and brush-up". It must overcome its tendency to self-satisfaction and must seek an impartiality that is above reproach from left or right.

Le Monde has leaned to the left since the student uprising of 1968. Although it has sometimes criticised their policies, it backed the Socialists in the 1981 elections.

Both staff and readers now feel a truly unbiased source of information is needed, notably in the run-up to parliamentary elections in 1986 which the Socialists are in danger of losing.

"That doesn't stop us from taking stands on things," says Mr. Fontaine. "But there will be the distinction dear to the Anglo-Saxon world between news and views."

Down and out, mentally ill roam New York City

By Michael Hughes
Reuters

NEW YORK — They scream or sit in catatonic silence, they are dirty and they smell, they can be dangerous and sometimes die a miserable death on the street. They are New York's thousands of mentally ill homeless.

Commuters scurry past them in the bustle of Grand Central Station with a mixture of embarrassment and distaste, tourists step gingerly around them outside the United Nations headquarters on Manhattan's East Side.

"If you are not mentally ill when you start living on the street, there's a good chance you will become so, and if you start out sick you will get worse," said one social worker.

Often these helpless New Yorkers exist unseen, leading a feral life burrowing for shelter into piles of cardboard, rags or garbage in parks, on waste land and under

elevated highways. Everyone agrees the mentally ill homeless are a major social problem, but views differ on whose responsibility they are — one reason why there is no coherent plan of action.

Estimates of the number of homeless in New York City vary wildly. But a 1983 report from the office of New York State Governor Mario Cuomo put the number at 60,000. Of those, somewhere between a fifth and a half are mentally ill.

A policy in New York State of releasing patients from mental hospitals has put many mentally ill onto the streets. Estimates of the total released between 1965 and 1977 vary from 60,000 to 120,000.

Swelling their numbers have been cuts in social programmes, high unemployment, lack of affordable housing and the conversion of cheap hotels into much more profitable luxury flats.

Former patients were supposed to have been supported on their return to society by cheap housing and readily available community services, but city social workers say funding and follow-up facilities lagged far behind the discharge policy.

New York State and New York City tend to blame one another. Ed Douglas, a spokesman for New York City's Human Resources Administration, said:

"What we have now is an open-air insane asylum. The state should either reinstitutionalise these people or provide a system of half-way housing in the community."

Irene Margolin, a deputy secretary for human resources for New York State, said there were plans to commit extra funds to help the mentally sick homeless.

She added that the problem had been aggravated by the city's habit of encouraging the conversion of cheap hotels into expensive flats

which generated more taxes.

Jane Putnam coordinates the Homeless Emergency Liaison Project — known by its acronym HELP — which operates from a hospital on Manhattan's seamy lower East Side.

The state-funded project provides emergency help for the homeless mentally ill, sending teams of a psychiatrist, nurse and social worker around Manhattan in a van seeking "clients".

Ms. Putnam, breezily asks journalists planning to accompany the team on their rounds: "You have a strong stomach I presume? We have very big lice."

On this clear, freezing morning "Orange Slicker", a silent, clean-looking middle-aged man, was resting on his usual bench in Battery Park on the southern tip of Manhattan, looking out to the Statue of Liberty. His carefully wrapped belongings are in a shopping cart by his side. He scrapes his whiskers with a razor.

He has never responded to offers of help. His longest speech to date was when Ms. Putnam told him Mayor Koch of New York had sent her to help. He said the mayor needed help more than he did.

In the shadow of the United Nations in one of New York's most expensive residential areas, two regulars sit on opposite sides of the busy highway.

"Milton", a ragged black man in his 30s, earned his nickname after he was seen reading a book of poetry by John Milton.

He sits on a manhole cover under a blanket, a stringless tennis racket at his side. He says he can find nowhere else to live. Ms. Putnam says he has accepted food and clothing but recently turned down a pair of boots as they were "not his style."

On the opposite side of the road, beside a manhole cover hot enough to brew coffee on, sits "Domitich", a white-bearded, dirt-encrusted Yugoslav who sho-

es constantly and hoarsely in a mixture of languages. Toothless, he licks a hot dog, ignores questions and continues his tirade, gazing at the pavement.

Not "at home" on this day is "Robert", a private-school educated Englishman, often found sleeping under layers of mattresses, cardboard and ragged blankets under the elevated highway on the Manhattan side of Brooklyn Bridge.

Robert, described by Ms. Putnam as deeply psychotic, accepts food, clothing and, every four to six months, a shower.

The spot he has lived in for six years is littered with garbage, infested with rats and bitterly cold. Back at the hospital, Ms. Putnam says: "These people are so vulnerable. They are set fire to, raped and mugged. They eat garbage, have no basic sanitary services and are ripe for all sorts of medical problems. Living on the streets is awful hard."

World recession is hurting Zambia's big industries

The world recession is hurting Zambia's big industries, but helping the country's shanty town entrepreneurs, who can make almost anything from scrap.

By Francis Mwanza

LUSAKA — High oil prices and low copper prices are giving Zambia's leaders sleepless nights and a few of its people, surprisingly, money-making opportunities.

With inflation running at 23.5 per cent, prices of essential commodities like the staple "mealie" (corn) meal, bread, cooking oil, soaps and detergents have risen alarmingly.

Most of the big industries rely on imported raw materials, which have not been forthcoming because of the scarcity of foreign exchange, a problem which has mounted with falling copper prices. Zambia earns 90 per cent of its foreign exchange from copper sales; and copper revenues have fallen from \$210 million in 1966 to nearly zero today.

Industries stricken by materials shortages have cut production by as much as 70 per cent or have shut down completely.

Zambia's biggest soap, detergent and cooking oil manufacturer, Refined Oil Products, has been unable to meet demand due to the dearth of raw materials, and of some finished products imported mostly from South Africa and Zimbabwe.

To answer the need, many tiny industries have sprung up in the country's squatter compounds, making liquid detergents and bath soaps. The manufacturers use animal fats (which until recently

were thrown away), salts and colouring already available in the country. Candles, too, are being produced by back garden industries, along with jams, tomato sauces and cooking oil, extracted from peanuts grown abundantly in the country's Eastern Province.

Other shanty town manufacturers are turning out shoes, clothes pegs, garden forks, axes, floor and shoe polish and even motorised machines and heavy duty ripsaws.

These small-scale entrepreneurs rely for raw materials on scrap metal, wood, leather, plastic, tents and old denim.

One impromptu industrialist who has excelled is Fletcher Siziba, 43, who recently won an order from West Germany's Friedrich Ebert Foundation to make oil extracting machines, which could produce cooking oil from peanuts and sunflower seeds. The Foundation plans to buy the machines and sell them to small farmers.

Siziba has also made sewing machine stands for the multinational Singer company. The company accepted the stands, making suggestions for improvements.

The fact that such products are being sold for one-third less than the price charged by the big manufacturing companies encourages local and international companies to buy.

The zambian government is

beginning to see the efforts of the shanty industrialists as important to the improvement of the nation's economic base, and to encourage them. The Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) was established by an Act of Parliament, SIDO and the Village Industry Service are aiming to promote small-scale industries, mostly in the suburban and rural areas.

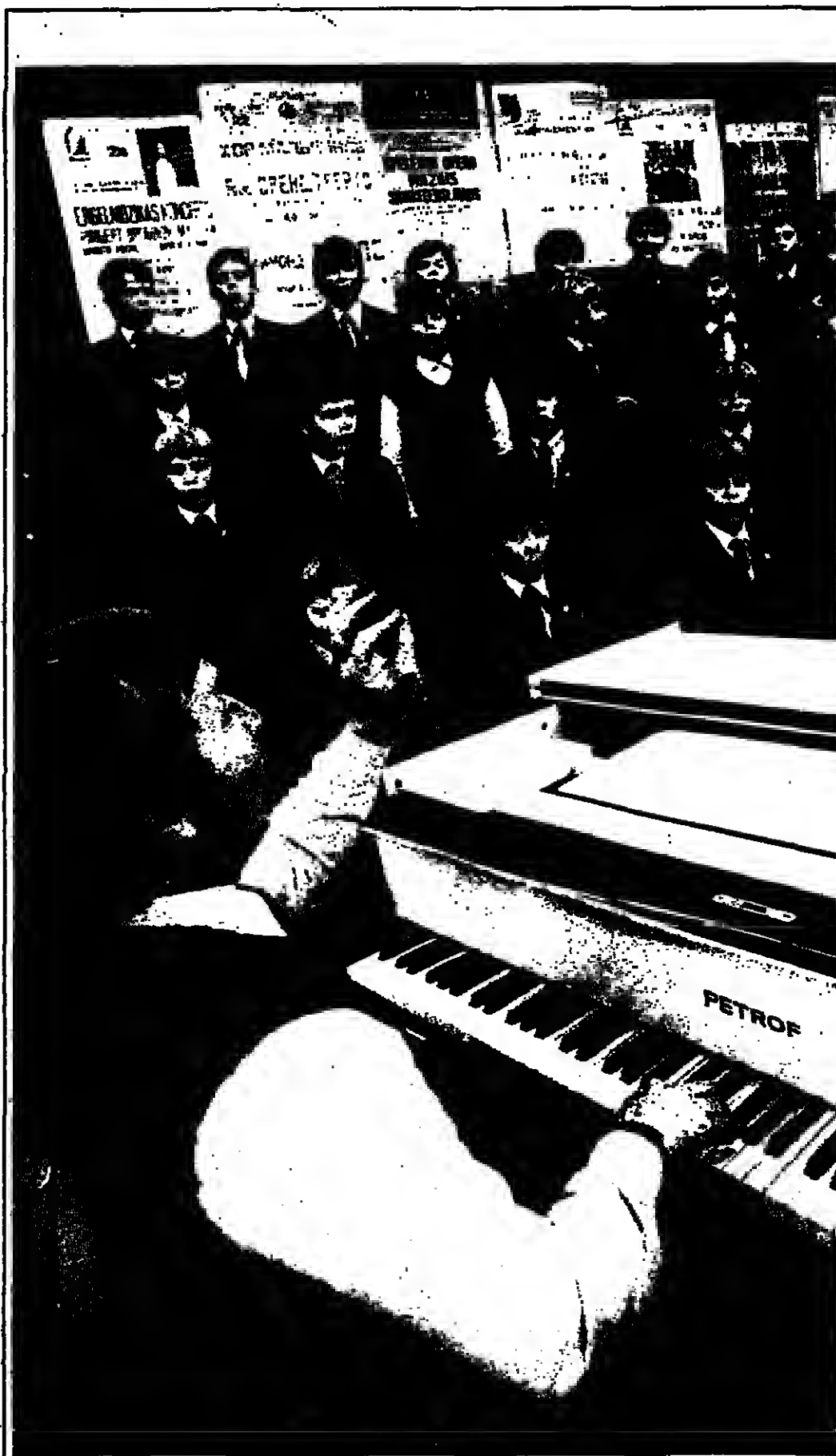
The government has drawn most of its experts in this field not from the industrialised "North", but from India, where small-scale industries thrive. Many government officers are sent for training to India, and some local entrepreneurs are also sent to West Germany for training in the management of small businesses.

Despite all this enthusiasm, the entrepreneurs are facing the usual problems of getting loans from most banks to buy such things as lathes. Few of them have the appropriate collateral. The research department of the Bank of Zambia, which has loaned the equivalent of \$5.3 million to small-scale industries projects and \$1.2 million for such agriculture-based projects in the impoverished North Western Province, is working on ways around the problem.

While complaining about a lack of credit and machinery, the new entrepreneurs are not complaining about sources of raw materials: "There is too much unwanted scrap material which we use," Mr. Siziba says.

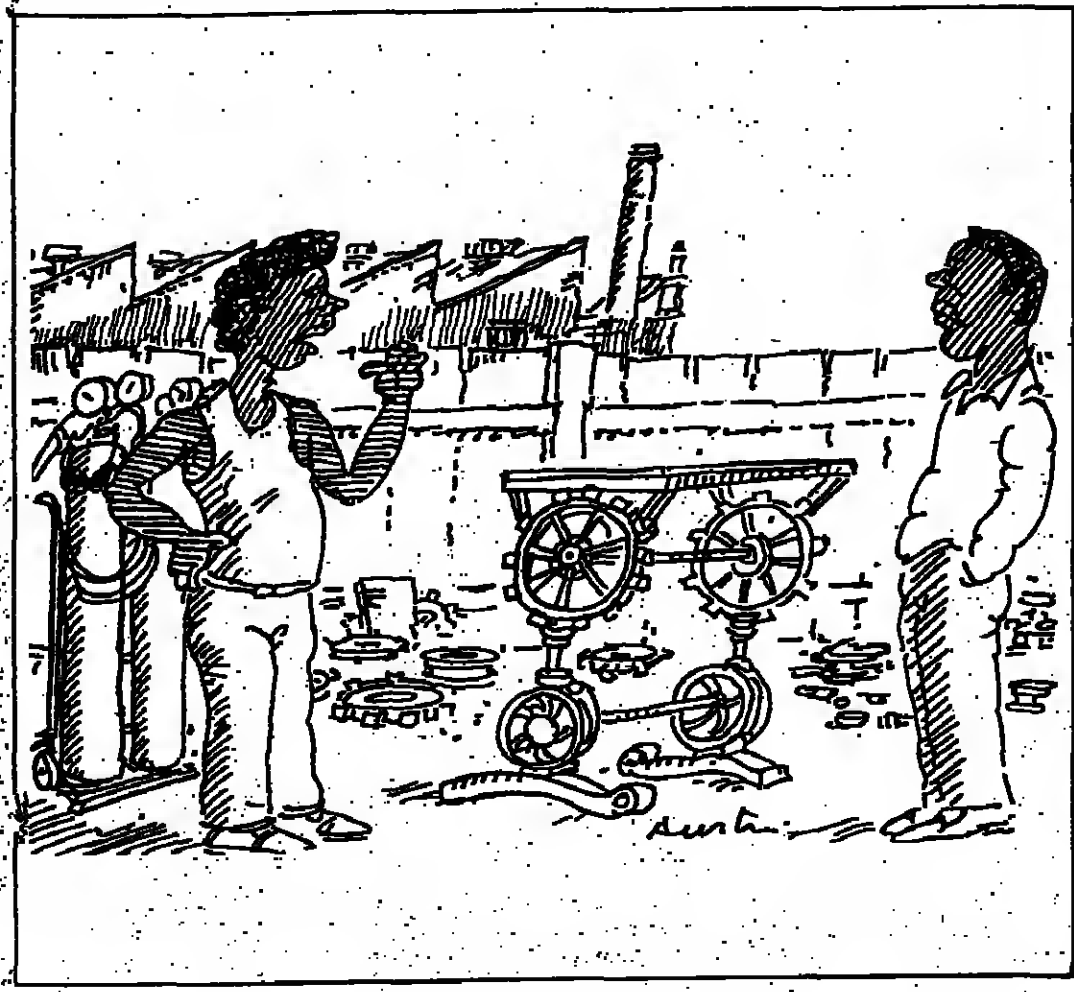
The economic recession that has forced some companies in the

country to fold has allowed many others to open, following the advice of both environmentalists and economists, recycling scrap and using local materials — Earthscan feature.



REPUBLIC OF CHILDHOOD: — The boys' choir, one of the most popular singing companies in the Latvian SSR, was set up in 1930 on the Choir Department of Riga's secondary specialised school named after Emil Darzins (Latvian composer, musical critic and choir conductor-1875-1910). The

Choir Department accepts annually ten 7-year-old boys. Till the seventh grade they sing in choir, study musical subjects and solo singing. Growing up, they specialise as choir conductors. After the graduation many of the students continue studies at the Conservatoire. (TASS photo).



"It's a sewing machine stand. I made it with parts from the bankrupt factory." (Earthscan cartoon)

Britain to crack down on drug abuse in sport

LONDON (AP) — In a decisive move to crack down on drug abuse in sport, the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) confirmed Tuesday it will introduce random dope tests later this year for the nation's runners, jumpers, hurdlers and throwers.

And athletes who refuse to take the tests will not be allowed to represent their country in international competition.

"We would like to think Britain is taking a fresh lead in the field of drug abuse and that other nations will follow suit," said BAAB Secretary, Nigel Cooper. "If they do not, our athletes could be at a disadvantage."

British athletes hoping to compete internationally, including at Olympic Games and World Championships, will be asked to sign a special register pledging their willingness to be vetted for drugs — at any time of the year.

"If they do not sign, then they will not be invited to represent Britain in our sport," said Cooper.

Although more than 20 sports in Britain are subject to year-round testing, checks in track and field have been confined to competitive events, meaning that athletes who use drugs out of season or in training can manipulate their intake to avoid detection.

Under the new proposals, the result of a lengthy study by a BAAB working party on drugs, athletes could be asked to take a test at a few days' notice.

Cooper said the proposals have to be ratified by the BAAB's finance committee next month before they can be implemented.

"But they already have the approval of our executive committee, which is higher than finance, so I do not foresee any problems," he told the Associated Press.

Under the new vetting procedure, a team of collecting officers, including doctors and nurses, will be set up to liaise with athletes and take away urine samples for testing at a West London drug control center.

If an athlete on the register is unable to provide a sample after repeated requests, his or her case will be considered by a board tribunal which will decide whether to impose a ban.

Cooper said all signatories will be sent an educational booklet listing the substances banned under international rules, plus a list of the permitted alternatives.

Cooper, who first disclosed plans for random tests in Britain two weeks ago, said he hoped they could be introduced by late summer, at a cost of about £20,000 (\$22,000).

But, he said, the project would not be ready in time for this year's inaugural Grand Prix track season beginning in May. For the first

time, athletes officially will be allowed to compete for lucrative prize money.

"There is a lot to do, selecting staff, printing documents and sending out pamphlets," said Cooper. "I doubt it can all be done in time."

In a statement, the BAAB said: "We have led British sport in the testing for prohibitive drugs over the last 10 years."

"For some time, the BAAB has been considering random sampling at any time of the year and has been pleased to note that both the British Olympic Association and the Minister for Sport (Neil Macfarlane) have joined us in seeking a broader scheme for the random sampling of sports persons."

Last month, the Sunday Times newspaper quoted a leading track and field administrator, Paul Dickenson, as saying that up to 60 per cent of Britain's international-class athletes had used drugs.

Dutch pessimistic about hosting European finals

THE HAGUE (R) — The Netherlands, one of four candidates to host the 1988 European Championship soccer finals, is pessimistic about its chances.

Although the Dutch Football Association (KNVB) believes it has the organisational ability to stage the finals, it holds little hope of success because most of its stadiums are too small.

The European Soccer Union (UEFA) has laid down that the matches be played in stadiums holding at least 40,000 spectators — but only two stadiums in the Netherlands meet this requirement.

These are the 67,000-capacity Feyenoord Rotterdam stadium and Amsterdam's Drab 65,000-

capacity stadium, built for the 1928 Olympics, which is badly in need of renovation.

KNVB spokesman Wim Jesse said: "We can organise the finals without any problems because our country is small and people can easily reach the various venues by fast road, rail and air facilities."

But he said the limited-capacity stadiums are likely to count against the Netherlands' bid to stage the finals.

UEFA's organising committee, which meets in Bern next Monday and Tuesday, is expected to recommend one of the four applicants — England, West Germany, the Netherlands and the Nordic nations, who have made a joint bid — as hosts.

UEFA plan to make a definitive decision on March 15.

The Dutch based their bid on the fact that they have never staged European or World Cup finals and because in 1989, one year after the finals, the KNVB cel-

Udinese ready to sell Zico for \$5 million

UDINE, Italy (R) — Udinese, currently lying fourth from bottom of the Italian first division, would be prepared to sell their Brazilian star Zico for 10 billion lire (\$5 million), club chairman Lamberto Mazza said.

Mazza told reporters Monday he was ready to release Zico, who joined the Italian club two years ago for six billion lire because he was unable to build a side of sufficient calibre around the Brazilian international.

Mazza said he had discussed the position with Zico, 31, who has missed much of the season because of injury.

Zico told reporters he wanted to return to Brazil if he was unable to play for a top Italian side. "The clubs that want to sign me, beginning with those in Italy, must make their offers to Udinese. Then we will see," he said.

Four Italian clubs, Torino, Internazionale Milan, Roma and Juventus are reported to be interested in acquiring Zico's skills.

Mazza said Flamengo, Zico's former club in Brazil, were also keen to buy him back.

Jordan Rally season begins

By John Boteler
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Rally season started last Friday with auto-speed tests held at the Royal Automobile Club (RAC). The tests, the first event of this year's National Rally season were in preparation for the National Jerash Rally, due to take place March 15.

Further events scheduled this season are the National Desert Castles Rally on May 3, (with preparatory speed tests on April 12), the Jordan International Car Rally July 10-12, which is also part of the Middle East rally and the National King's Highway Rally on Nov. 15 (with tests on Aug. 16).

The national rallies are primarily aimed at Jordanian residents, and this year, to encourage entrants, first-time competitors, if they do manage to complete the national rally will have their JD 10 entrance fee refunded. While the Jordan International Car Rally is part of the larger Middle East Rally (other events in this are held in Oman, Qatar, Kuwait & Bahrain) for competitors who are Jordanian residents, it also comprises, along with the three national rallies, part of the Jordanian championship.

The points system for this has been modified. Points awarded range from one point for tenth place up to twenty points for first. Also, all awards are subject to co-efficients. For example, in the drivers' championship, those points gained in an auto-test are multiplied by a co-efficient of 0.5, in the national rallies, 1.5, and in the international by 3. In addition, two points are awarded for starting in a rally and a further four points for finishing. Furthermore, apart from the driver's championship, there are several other points-scoring championships planned. One competition for co-drivers, another for women drivers, one for car-manufacturers and a final one for Group 'A' cars.

Group 'A' cars are any standard production car which is suitable for rally or road driving. Group 'B' cars, on the other hand, are special custom-built models, specifically manufactured for rallies. Group 'A' will also have met certain specifications, which make them eligible to qualify for championship points. First of all there is the 'homologation' test. When a car

manufacturer produces a new model it informs FISA, (the international regulating & organising body of motor sports, based in France), of the car's make-up and specifications. The manufacturer then, in conjunction with FISA, draws up the homologation papers for that car, with regard to these specifications. These papers must be produced for any Group 'A' car by the driver before the rally. While certain modifications are allowed and indeed advisable, such as the tyres, suspension and clutch, others are strictly forbidden, such as the addition of spoilers, changing the carburetors, or pistons. Any changes in these mechanisms would immediately be shown up by a comparison of the car with its homologation papers. (There is also a special classification for the National Rally, Group 'S', for cars without homologation papers, but these are not eligible for championship points).

While some modifications are advisable if a car is to survive the rigours of a rally, some are compulsory if a car is to qualify for championship points. The biggest of these is a built-in roll cage, to protect the driver if his car overturns. Also mandatory is a crash-helmet, a four-point harness-style safety belt, a fire extinguisher, and a first-aid kit. None of this comes cheap. Although the cost of staging auto-speed tests are a fairly modest JD 250, the cost of individual national rallies are around JD 2,500, while the bill for the International Rally is a fairly massive JD 30,000.

For the individual driver, the mandatory modifications cost about JD 500, (including JD 200 for the roll cage), while the recommended alterations, such as new tyres, suspension, extra welding and protective sheeting will cost at least JD 500-600, there are also maintenance costs and custom duties to consider.

However, there is sponsorship available. El Pasha Juice funded last Friday's tests, while Rothmans are picking up the tab for both the national and international events as well as providing additional equipment and aid for the international which requires 150 people to organise and ensure its smooth running.

Individual drivers enjoy the sponsorship of local companies, firms and car dealers. For the future it is hoped that Rothmans will

agree to sign a three to five year contract, thus ensuring financial security, while there are also hopes for a government concession towards waiving the custom duties on Group 'B' cars. Indeed it is government help that has enabled the National Rally season to be held at all.

"We are lucky in that we enjoy the full backing of all the government departments and we are extremely grateful for this," Mr. Derek Ledger, General Manager of the RAC told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Ledger, who founded the RAC in Jordan, points out that rally-driving is much more than just a sport. It is also a discipline. For example, the Jerash Rally will comprise several stages, competitive or road-section, but of the total distance of 131 km from the start (RAC) on the Eighth Circle to Jerash, only thirty km will be competitive; the rest will be road sections. Furthermore, Mr. Ledger added: "If we analyze a single stage we see exactly how much of a discipline road rallying is." The fifth stage, which will incorporate a road-section, is scheduled to start from Dibbin forest at 12:23 and end at the Jerash rest-house at exactly 12:48. If a driver arrives late he will be penalised one minute for every minute late, and this extra time is added to the actual time he registered over the special competitive section of the stage.

However, if a driver arrives early, he will be penalised two minutes for every minute early. Rally organisers point out: "We're more interested in safe drivers than in fast drivers."

Mr. Ledger sees the national rallies as being in part rehearsals for the Middle East International Rally, and in giving the opportunity for mistakes to be spotted and improvements to be made. For instance, some of the competitive stages of the Jerash Rally are to be included in the international.

This year will also see certain innovations: the use of computer print-out and facsimile machines to provide on-the-spot information for the drivers and also improved telephone communications.

Rally officials said that the long-range goal is for the Jordan International Rally to become part of the world rally circuit. This circuit consists of twelve events, held in Africa, Europe, South America and elsewhere. Because of the massive costs and time required to prepare for each event, it is not possible to increase number of events. However, FISA inspectors cover every major rally held throughout the world and submit a report, on the basis of which points are awarded.

Last year, out of a possible 150, Jordan scored 119. The Ivory Coast, which at present is part of the world circuit, scored 113. This year is their "last chance". However, if the Ivory Coast, or indeed another venue, fails to come up to scratch and are relegated from the world circuit, there are many nations who would be bidding for the vacancy. The USA, Australia and France are all eager for the prize.

While the car-manufacturers may be enticed by the lure of the dollar, FISA itself is keen to provide a wide variety of rally conditions and is well aware of the benefits in a Middle East venue. One Middle East country is pushing hard for inclusion, but Mr. Ledger doubts they will prove to be adequately prepared. In Jordan's case, he would prefer to bide his time and apply when he knows that the Kingdom can acquit itself honourably. Mr. Ledger said: "It would be a big mistake to push for a place and fall in your first year through lack of proper facilities and preparations. If we do get a world circuit place, we want to keep it."

Swedish stars out of players' tennis

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R) — Swedish Davis Cup stars Mats Wilander and Anders Jarryd were upset Monday in a stormy, wind-plagued fourth round of the \$1.4 million International Players Tennis Championships that was later postponed.

Their Davis Cup teammate Stefan Edberg, the 13th seed, was ahead of top seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 5-6 on set 1, when heavy rain halted their fourth-round match.

The second-seeded Wilander, who had trouble with his backhand throughout the tournament, was beaten by American Mike Leach 7-5, 6-2. Jarryd, the fourth seed, was eliminated by 11th seed Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-4.

And in the women's draw, 13th seed Andrea Temesvari of Hungary defeated third-seeded Wendy Turnbull of Australia 6-4, 6-3 to advance to the quarter-finals.

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CBJ reaffirms stance on foreign banks equity

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has denied that the government is changing its mind about requiring foreign bank branches in the country to reorganise their equity shareholding to reflect at least a 51 per cent Jordanian ownership. An international news agency reported two days ago, quoting foreign bankers in Jordan, that the government may delay or drop its requirement that the eight foreign banks in the country become majority Jordanian owned by the end of 1986.

An official central bank spokesman told the Jordan Times Tuesday: "There has been no change in government policy regarding the requirement that foreign bank branches in Jordan become 51 per cent locally owned within the required three-year period. The news items that have appeared to this effect are not supported by any new measures or arrangements on the part of the Jordanian government which may in any way, reverse or change previous decisions."

Foreign bankers in Amman were quoted as saying that the stumbling block would be that the sale of the shares would weigh too heavily on an already weak stock market.

The market has already declined by 60 per cent from its peak in the 1982, and bankers said it probably could not absorb flotation of 51 per cent of the equity of the foreign banks.

Foreign banks must have minimum capital of five million dinars (\$12 million), implying new share sales of at least 20 million dinars (\$48 million) in a small market.

Bankers said that even if the bank shares were successfully floated, it would be at the expense of shares of non-financial companies in Jordan, many of which are undercapitalised and already finding it hard to raise new equity capital.

EC, GCC rift persists on petrochemicals row

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were on a creaking long-running petrochemicals dispute after a meeting between the two Monday. Commission officials said European commissioner Mr. Claude Cheysson told GCC Secretary General Abdullah Bishara that there was little chance that the Community would agree to cut tariffs on Gulf petrochemical exports when the two sides hold talks in Bahrain on Feb. 28 aimed at an overall trading pact.

The dispute came to the boil again last month when the commission reimposed a 13.4 per cent tariff on Saudi methanol imports after a single shipment took them to 16 times the annual 1,600 tonnes-a-year limit in just three weeks.

Saudi Arabia, which along with other Gulf states has built plants as joint ventures with mostly U.S. and Japanese firms, has long been unhappy about a Community policy of allowing only a limited quantity of petrochemicals into the bloc duty free.

However, the Community stresses that the duties imposed are routine ones. The officials said that if any concessions were given to Gulf states, the bloc would be obliged under the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to give them to everyone.

Arab ministers to discuss joint minerals exploration

VIENNA (OPECNA) — Arab ministers of mineral resources are to meet in Khartoum Sunday to discuss a joint strategy for mineral exploration in the Arab World.

But an executive of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) stressed that the ministers would not discuss subjects related to energy usage or new energy resources.

Dr. Mohammed Lababidi, assistant director general of OAPEC's energy resources department, told OPECNA Tuesday that these topics would be left for the third Arab energy conference to be held in Algiers in May.

He said the Khartoum meeting would concentrate on drawing up a joint strategy for minerals, with the discussions including gold, silver and other valuable metals.

The meeting will include a number of technical sessions, each chaired by one of the 22 participating ministers, as well as panel discussions on the economics of small mines and joint training programmes.

Ministers will also consider a paper on mining research and exploration in the Arab World prepared by the organisers of the conference — OAPEC, the Arab Organisation of Mineral Resources, the Arab Organisation of Industrial Development, the Arab Mining Company, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Sudanese ministry of energy and mines.

Mr. Lababidi said the paper would thoroughly examine "from the technical side," the possibility of finding new minerals in the Arab World, and tackle difficulties encountered in the financing of exploration operations.

Shanghai may set up stock market in 1987

SHANGHAI (R) — China's communist rulers are actively considering opening a stock market in Shanghai and one could be established within two years, a senior financial official said Tuesday.

"The proposal is being considered by both the central government and the Shanghai authorities. Many details have to be worked out, but I would say we could have a stock market in Shanghai within two years," said Mr. Sheng Baizhang, vice-president of the Shanghai Investment and Trust Corporation.

"We have to train people and establish the legal framework. This will take time," he added. He told Reuters that Shanghai was China's financial centre before the 1949 communist takeover and the city was the obvious first choice for a stock market.

Foreign bankers attending an international conference on China's petroleum industry said the Bank of China was also considering stock markets in the southern special economic zones of Shenzhen and Zhuhai.

Mr. Ming Zhicheng, deputy director of the Shanghai Municipal Economic Commission, also said the proposal was under study. But he declined to say when an exchange could be opened.

Thousands of people queued last month to buy shares in Shanghai's Yanzhong Industrial Company which sells photocopying and printing services in China's biggest industrial city.

The initial offer of 100,000 shares at 50 yuan (\$18) each was snapped up by early afternoon on the first day, suggesting that Shanghai's old flair for making money had not been smothered by 35 years of communism.

Several firms across China have issued shares. Investors receive annual dividends, but so far cannot trade them through a stock exchange.

Shanghai, which has lagged behind some other major cities in the Peking government's push for economic innovation, gave the go-ahead for state and collective-run enterprises to issue shares last August.

The country's reforming leadership has encouraged the idea of shares as a way of mobilising people's savings behind Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping's modernisation drive.

Mr. Li Lixia, vice president of Shanghai's financial association argued last year in the Canton evening news that a stock market would encourage more investment and public interest in the good performance of companies. But he said futures trading should be avoided to prevent speculation.

Agricultural dispute may delay EC enlargement

BRUSSELS (R) — The timetable for Spanish entry to the European Community (EC) looked shaky Monday with the group deeply split over whether a proposed farm modernisation package included special cash aid for poorer Mediterranean farmers.

Diplomats said the ten's finance ministers failed to agree a new plan, with the Netherlands, Britain and West Germany arguing its size meant it included grants to Mediterranean farmers to cushion the impact of Iberian accession, due in early 1986.

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu has threatened to veto the group's enlargement unless his farmers are offered generous terms through the special handouts.

The 10-nation Community's executive committee has proposed a package of just over six billion European Currency Units (\$4.1 billion), but says this does not include special aid.

Finance ministers, keen to exercise new rules giving them tighter control of farm spending, have reserved the right to fix the cash ceiling of the new package. In the past, they have set only the overall farm budget.

The previous five-year \$3.75 billion programme expired at the end of last summer and has since been "rolled over" month by month.

Diplomats said that Italy, Denmark and Ireland indicated at Monday's meeting they backed the commission's stand, but favoured a slightly lower figure of 5.5 billion European Currency Units (\$3.85 billion).

They said the ministers would try and reach agreement at their next meeting.

Diplomats said Britain's position was that the financial ceiling of the proposed package was too high even if the extra grants were included. They said the ministers were unlikely to reach agreement.

New farm commissioner Mr. Frans Andriessen has made it clear he sees the grants, used for a wide range of purposes from buying tractors to irrigating land, as a key element to a fresh bid to bring the Community's ruinous agricultural policy under control.

He told journalists last week that if his proposals for unprecedented cuts and freezes for most farm products were to be accepted grants must be made available to enable farmers to reduce costs and thereby protect their incomes.

Hong Kong sets up diamond market

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong, one of the world's biggest diamond trading centres, Tuesday set up its first central diamond exchange, Mr. Leung Sik Wah, chairman of the exchange, told reporters that a group of diamond merchants had formed the Hong Kong Diamond Bourse Ltd. and that it would officially begin trading next month. It now has more than 100 members, he said. Hong Kong previously had no central diamond exchange but Mr. Leung estimated that more than \$500 million worth of diamonds were bought and sold here last year by local traders.

Dollar surges to new highs

FRANKFURT (R) — The dollar's record-breaking run showed no signs of flagging Tuesday as it surged to a fresh 13-year high against the mark and an all-time peak against the French franc.

Few currencies could withstand the dollar onslaught — the Australian dollar, Spanish peseta and Italian lira also fell to new lows while sterling just managed to hold above its worst.

The dollar rose to 3.2782 marks at the daily fixing session here from 3.2573 Monday to set a record high in the 12-year history of floating exchange rates for the seventh consecutive day.

In Paris it was a similar story, with the dollar topping 10 francs at the fix for the first time to reach 10.023 francs.

After business opened in New York, where many banks were closed for a holiday, the dollar surged to 3.2907 marks, its best since December 1971 when currencies traded at fixed rates.

Currency dealers said the dollar's latest surge has been fuelled by a growing conviction that central bankers in Europe and the U.S. are in dispute over the merit of intervening in the market against the dollar.

While the West German central bank, the Bundesbank, is believed to have repeatedly lobbied for and led a European movement for concerned intervention, the U.S. treasury continues to sell dollars only half-heartedly, they said.

One currency dealer here said: "Reading between the lines, there is an obvious dispute. Markets

took this as a signal to push the dollar still higher."

The Bundesbank and its counterparts from the U.S., France, Japan and Britain agreed last month to coordinate their intervention efforts to try to tame the dollar's rise.

A meeting of central bank governors in Basel, Switzerland, Monday agreed to go on selling dollars, but admitted they had so far not stopped the currency's rise.

The traders said it was now simply a matter of time before the markets tested the psychological barrier of 3.30 marks and threw down a fresh challenge to the central banks.

Sterling just managed to stay above its record low of \$1.09 set in New York Monday night to trade at \$1.0920.

While the pound has been helped by recent rises in British interest rates and oil prices, London traders said its latest falls showed it was still vulnerable to the dollar's strength.

Elsewhere, the dollar remained at a 10-year high of 2.7980 Swiss francs and rose to 3.7175 Dutch guilders, its highest in 24 years.

It also jumped to all-time records of 180.788 pesetas and 2,015.8 lire, while in Sydney the Australian dollar closed at a record low of 74.85 U.S. cents.

Norway reviews energy strategy

OSLO (R) — The Norwegian government Tuesday reassessed its energy policy after Britain's rejection of a \$25 billion North Sea gas deal.

Prime Minister Kaare Willoch told journalists the British refusal to buy gas from the Sleipner field would have unfortunate consequences for the economy.

Oil and Energy Minister Kaare Kristiansen said alternative oil and gas field development would be rushed forward to fill the investment gap left by the failed Sleipner deal.

Britain said Monday it was halting the deal because new discoveries of its own showed domestic demand could be met. The Sleipner gas would have met British needs into the next century.

The government blocked a deal agreed earlier by the British Gas Corporation which would have led to the development of the Sleipner field and export of the entire gas reserve to Britain.

Statoil, Norway's state-owned oil company, said it would apply for a \$1.6 billion scheme to develop the Gullfaks North Sea field some four years earlier than planned.

Statoll raises oil prices

Meanwhile, Norway will increase its crude oil price by \$1 a barrel in February, although longer-term trends still indicate a fall when the cold weather ends. Statoil sources said Monday.

The sources, who usually reflect official policy, said Statoil would charge between \$28 and \$28.50 per barrel for February loading, \$1 up on its January price and a 50 cent increase on December levels.

Britain is expected soon to renege its official price at the December level of \$28.65.

Statoil abandoned its policy of fixing an official price for its North Sea crude in December, saying it would negotiate with individual customers because of unstable world prices.

The February increase would probably be temporary because spot, or free market, prices are high at present because of a cold spell in Europe and the United States and a shortage of Soviet crude oil. Longer term pricing trends suggested levels would drop again in April, they said.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities ended sharply lower as sterling fell to a new low against the dollar. Dealers said the market was nervous amid uncertainty over the short term outlook for U.S. interest rates, dealers said.

The FTSE 100 share index at 1530 GMT eased 24.0 to 1,273.5 and the F.T. 30 share index fell 17.5 to 973.6 at 1500 GMT. ICI was 5p off at 862 while falls of 10p to 17p were noted in Glaxo at 1,178, Plessey at 162, BTR at 654 and Unilever at 1,280.

Government bonds showed losses of up to 1½ point in quiet trading. Gold shares firmed with the bullion price while North American stocks were lower.

IBM declined £2¼ to £121½ after the company said that a rise in its first quarter earnings would be difficult. The stock fell \$4 Monday on Wall Street after two brokerage analysts cut their rating on the stock.

STC fell 34p to 200 following a five for one rights issue at 190p per share to raise about £168 million.

In banks, Natwest declined 13p at 679 while insurances showed mixed movements of around 5p. Among nills, B.P. eased 11p at 550 and Shell shaded 6p to 750.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.0945/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3383/86	Canadian dollars
	3.2765/75	West German marks
	3.7070/90	Dutch guilders
	2.7875/85	Swiss francs
	65.74/77	Belgian francs
	9.9975/10.0025	French francs
	2013.5/4.5	Italian lire
	262.40/50	Japanese yen
	9.2750/2850	Swedish crowns
	9.4150/4250	Norwegian crowns
	11.6925/7025	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	303.30/303.80	U.S. dollars

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An unusually good day and evening for you to get off to new interests and pursuits and to plan whatever expansiveness you wish to have in your life in the days ahead.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can make new allies of worth if you get into the outside world of activity and study into new interests.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Security means much to you and this is a good day to look into better ways of strengthening your foundation.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) An honest partner whose background is different to your own can give good suggestions for improving relationships.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Look into new mechanisms that can help you to be more efficient, whether at work or at home.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get your special talents working efficiently so that you can advance in your career. Make quick benefits and get out of the red.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get busy at whatever will improve the conditions at your home and have more harmony there. Socialize in the evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Come to definite decisions early and then get right to work on whatever you have planned to do. Action is the keynote.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are able to see how to have more prosperity in the future. Now confer with an expert and get fine advice.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A good day to study your ambitions carefully and take the right steps so that you can gain them more easily.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't get bogged down with the details of a new interest but consider the overall picture more carefully.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A good day for being your gregarious self and seeing as many good friends as you can. Make new acquaintances.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study how to make your job pay off handsomely now and also gain in prestige. Be your efficient self.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be very loquacious yet be interesting to others, since there is brilliance in this nature. But teach early to first study all the facts before expressing the self otherwise your progeny could get into trouble innocently. One who can then become very successful in life.

THE Daily Crossword by Gayle Dean

Dogma	37																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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Reagan says Star Wars plan to proceed despite arms talks

NEW YORK (R) — President Reagan was quoted Tuesday as saying he intended press ahead with his "Star Wars" anti-nuclear missile research project no matter what the result of coming talks between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

In an interview with the New York Times, Mr. Reagan made it clear his Space Based Defence (SBD) plan would not be a bargaining chip in the Geneva talks, and that the research project would continue even if the two superpowers agreed to limit their nuclear arms capacity.

"The only weapon we have is MAD — Mutual Assured Destruction. Why don't we have MAS instead — Mutual Assured Security," the president said.

The object of such a system, he said, was not to build another "first strike" nuclear weapon but to make nuclear weapons at least "ineffective" if not obsolete.

"If this should come about ...

then we've got a real reason for saying now let's all do away with them," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Reagan also told the Times that the Soviet Union has been carrying out anti-ballistic missile tests for a number of years.

"Who are they kidding? They've been conducting research in this sort of thing for a long time," he was quoted as saying.

He added that the Star Wars project would "eliminate any of the protests that some of the people in the Soviet side have made that we're seeking a first strike capability."

"I don't think that anyone could honestly believe the United States is interested in such a thing or ever

would put itself in that position," he was reported as saying.

The object of the SBD plan, he said, was that "if somebody starts pushing the buttons on those weapons, we've got a good chance of keeping all, or at least the bulk of them, from getting to the target."

President Reagan said that he was not in a position at present to endorse Vice-President George Bush for the 1988 presidential election race.

He told the New York Times that Mr. Bush was everything a vice-president should be.

But Mr. Reagan said that as president he was only titular head of the Republican Party and had to let the party "make its own decisions" on a candidate for the 1988 race.

When asked about a possible endorsement of Mr. Bush, he quoted the film *Gone With the Wind*: "I'll be like Scarlett O'Hara — I'll think about it tomorrow," he said.

Meanwhile, U.S. arms negotiator John Tower said Monday he had encountered West European scepticism about President Reagan's Star Wars space defence plan but that the reaction was generally favourable.

Mr. Tower, named by President Reagan to negotiate reductions on intercontinental nuclear weapons in talks due to start in Geneva on March 12, has been consulting officials in Britain after attending a defence conference in West Germany.

He told reporters at a briefing: "What we have encountered has been healthy scepticism, and they're asking a lot of questions, but I think on the whole we've got a pretty favourable response."

Britain, France, and West Germany have reservations about the plan, which some officials say privately might shield the United States more effectively than Western Europe if it is ever deployed.



WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION: President Ronald Reagan and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia smile at photographers before starting talks at the White House Monday. (AP wirephoto)

El Salvador seeks to train army officers in Britain, Belgium and Israel

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Britain and Belgium have offered to train Salvadoran officers in their military academies, according to El Salvador's army chief of staff.

President Jose Napoleon Duarte says his government might also seek help from Israel in officer training.

If the arrangements go ahead, they will be the first involvement of European countries in El Salvador's civil war and will step up Israel's deep military involvement in Central America.

Chief of Staff General Adolfo Blandon said Britain and Belgium had tentatively offered El Salvador places at their military academies to train officers and officer-candidates.

"During the president's trips to Europe and the Americas, he tried to get international help in favour of democracy," Blandon said.

"There now has been talk about training posts for security force officers in England and scholarships for army officers in military studies in Belgium."

Mr. Duarte told Reuters during a recent interview: "Right now I am hoping for military training in Europe," adding: "Israel is also a good place where we could get help."

Diplomats and other officials said Salvadoran security officers, including Deputy Public Security Minister Carlos Lopez Nula, would go to Israel later this month to attend a seminar organised by the Israeli police on anti-terrorism and criminology.

Last April, U.S. press reports said the United States and Israel discussed the possibilities of the Israelis providing technical and security assistance to El Salvador.

One diplomat familiar with relations between the two countries

said Mr. Lopez Nula would seek military aid while he was in Israel to attend the anti-terrorism seminar.

"There have been talks about Israeli assistance but nothing has been made concrete yet," the diplomat said.

Israel provides Guatemala and Honduras with military aid and in the 1970s sold planes to El Salvador and trained its pilots.

It ended the military relationship after the assassination of its honorary consul Ernesto Libes in 1979.

A U.S. military expert said these new possibilities were the result of a drive by the Salvadoran government for aid from countries other than the United States, which has been its chief supporter in its five-year war against left-wing guerrillas.

COLUMN

Sex show audiences face jail

CEBU, Philippines (R) — Frustrated in their efforts to stop sex shows in grille bars, the Council in Cebu, the Philippines' second city, has decided to penalise the patrons. It has voted to impose a 220-peso (\$10) fine or one month's jail on people caught watching the shows as well as closing the bars where they are staged. The proposal has to be approved by the mayor and it was not clear how it would be enforced.

Top balloonist dies in plane crash

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (R) — Ben Abruzzo, who made history in the first balloon crossings of the Atlantic and Pacific, was among six people killed when a light plane he was flying crashed in flames near Albuquerque. He was 54. Abruzzo's wife, Pat, and four other women aboard the plane were also killed, police reported. Police Sergeant Ray Manfredi said there were no survivors. Abruzzo was flying the women on a skiing trip to Aspen, Colorado, when the twin-engine plane crashed on Interstate 25 just north of the city and exploded in flames just after 10 a.m. local time, Manfredi said. In 1978 Abruzzo and two fellow-Americans, Marie Anderson and Larry Newman, created history by crossing the Atlantic in a balloon. Anderson died in a balloon accident in June, 1983.

'Banned' pop record gets award

LONDON (R) — A pop record banned by broadcasters accusing it of sexual innuendo won an award Tuesday as Britain's best single of 1984. "Relax" by the group Frankie Goes to Hollywood, was denied air time on radio and television by the chiefs of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) because they believed the lyrics might cause public offence. But it went on to become a top-selling single, rocketing the group to international stardom — and an accolade at the British Phonograph Industry's annual music awards. Boomtown Rats' leader Bob Geldof got a special award for organising famine relief for Ethiopia through the international-selling seasonal record by the group Band-Aid called Do They Know it's Christmas?

Italian masterpiece may fetch \$7.9m

LONDON (R) — An Italian Renaissance masterpiece by Andrea Mantegna which has come onto the market could fetch more than the £7.3 million (\$7.9 million) record for any painting, art experts say. London auctioneers Christie's has announced that the Adoration of the Magi painted by Mantegna between 1495 and 1505 and presently owned by the Marquess of Northampton, would be offered for sale on March 19. They said the price could exceed the £7.3 million fetched by a Turner "Seascape" last year. It is uncommon for a Renaissance masterpiece to come on the market as most are in museums. Christie's describes the "Adoration" as the most important old master to be sold since Velazquez's portrait of Juan de Pareja in 1970 for £2.3 million (\$2.5 million).

Rare monkey found in China

PEKING (AP) — A Chinese newspaper has reported new details on the capture of a hairy ape-like male beast that suggest it is a rare monkey, not the mythical "wild man" as previously claimed. The Canton newspaper Yangcheng Evening News (Yangcheng Wanbao) said 32 peasants and 11 hunting dogs in Huanan province tracked down the creature, which clawed the ear off one of its human captors and was knocked unconscious with a pole. The newspaper made the claims Saturday in a special dispatch from the central city of Wuhan, headquarters of the China Wild Man Research Institute, where the beast reportedly has been kept. Chinese press accounts last week claimed a one-metre hair-covered specimen of the mythical "wild man" had been captured in Huanan. But leading anthropologists were quoted as saying they were sceptical of the find. No photographs of the beast have been published.

Castro: Soviet ties non-negotiable

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cuban President Fidel Castro says closer U.S.-Cuban ties would ease global tensions but "I will not change a single one of my principles for a thousand relations with a thousand countries like the United States."

In an interview broadcast Monday night, Mr. Castro said Cuba's relationship with the Soviet Union is non-negotiable because it is a matter of "our sovereignty, and that cannot be questioned."

"If someone thinks that we are going to sell out, or that we are going to give up our banners, our flags, or that we are going to change our ideas, that is an error. Cuba is a country that cannot be bought, and countries that are bought are simply not respected," he said on the public broadcasting system's Maceo-Lehrer Newshour.

Mr. Castro added that Cuba's relations with the Soviets are "better than ever."

Last week, in response to previous expressions of interest by Mr. Castro in improved relations

with the United States, White House spokesman Larry Speakes cited Cuba's "close allegiance to the Soviet Union" as one fundamental disagreement with the Castro government.

While saying that "the lines of communication" with Cuba remain open, Mr. Speakes said that country has taken "very little action" toward better relations with the United States.

Responding to Mr. Speakes' assertion that Cuba engages in "subversive activities" in Latin America, Mr. Castro said revolutions cannot be exported from one country to another but instead are the result of internal economic, social and political conditions.

He accused the United States of wanting to maintain "just social order" in the hemisphere that has meant "poverty, hunger, underdevelopment, diseases, ignorance... If we are accused of wanting to promote change, we can also accuse the United States of wanting to avoid change, and of wanting to maintain an unjust social

regime. But actually, neither can we export it (revolution) nor can the United States avoid it."

Mr. Castro did not reply specifically to the U.S. charge that his government arms leftist rebel groups in the region.

The interview was one of a number of contacts Mr. Castro has had recently with Americans. In meetings with members of Congress and church leaders, and in media interviews, Mr. Castro has expressed interest in moving toward an accommodation with the United States.

He said he is making the proposal because Cuba has an "obligation" to seek peace. The United States would benefit from an overall easing of East-West tensions because "the fabulous cost of the arms race cannot be sustained by the U.S. economy."

Cuba, on the other hand, can go on for "5, 10, 15, 20 more years... I think the United States benefits more than us (from easing of tensions). We can sit here and wait calmly and see what happens in the coming years," he said.

Papandreou not to meet Chernenko

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet spokesman said President Konstantin Chernenko, out of public view for six weeks, would not appear at a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou Tuesday.

But Greek diplomatic sources, who said Monday the Soviet Foreign Ministry had confirmed Mr. Chernenko would be at the meeting Tuesday, said they were unaware of any change in plan.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters there were "no plans" for a meeting between Mr. Chernenko, absent from public duties since Dec. 27, and the Greek premier who arrived for a three-day visit Monday.

Officials have acknowledged that Mr. Chernenko has been ill. The Greek sources said Mr. Papandreou, who Tuesday morning met Prime Minister Nikolaos Tsiolkas, had not yet been told of any change of plan Tuesday. They said Monday they had been informed the meeting would be in the Kremlin Tuesday afternoon.

Under Soviet practice meetings between the president and a visiting official of a lower protocol level — in this case a prime minister — are never officially confirmed in advance. However time was set aside on the official programme.

Western diplomats said the only conclusion they could draw was that Mr. Chernenko's health had again deteriorated since officials confirmed to Greece that the meeting would go ahead.

They said it was unlikely the Kremlin would have deliberately misled Mr. Papandreou over the meeting, which was regarded by diplomats and journalists as a test of Soviet reports that Mr. Chernenko was working.

Diplomats discounted any possibility that Mr. Chernenko had decided not to meet Mr. Papandreou for anything but health reasons, because of the importance Moscow attaches to its ties with Greece's Socialist government.

Last Thursday the state media said the 73-year-old president had taken part in a meeting of the ruling Politburo and officials have said he is still running the affairs of state.

The editor-in-chief of the Communist Party daily Pravda said on Italian television last week that Mr. Chernenko was ill.

The Soviet spokesman Tuesday repeated an earlier statement from his ministry that Mr. Chernenko was not in Moscow.

Sikh leaders plan march from Punjab to Delhi

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh political leaders plan a mass march from India's troubled Punjab state to New Delhi next month if jailed followers are not freed, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Tuesday.

The news agency said the Sikhs' main political party, the Akali Dal, decided Monday night in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar to serve a formal ultimatum on the government to free jailed party leaders and Sikh youths it considered innocent by March 5.

It said the meeting also called on the government to disband special courts holding closed trials of Sikh extremist suspects and to punish those guilty of the anti-Sikh rioting after Indira Gandhi's assassination last October.

The Sikh's five high priests will lead the protest march, starting from the Sikh shrine of Anandpur Sahib, 300 kilometres from Delhi, after a major festival there on March 8.

PTI said the Akali Dal accused Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government of instigating the post-assassination riots.

Rajiv Gandhi, who took over hours after his mother and pre-

decessor Indira was shot by two Sikh bodyguards, has pledged to give priority to resolving the Punjab dispute.

He has set up a committee of three senior cabinet colleagues to suggest ways of settling it peacefully.

But Mr. Gandhi has said violence will not be tolerated, and asked the Sikh leadership to denounce extremism by those seeking a separate Sikh state.

Police in Punjab said 1,000 Sikhs are now in 10 special courts in the state for various offences.

The government announced last month it would hold closed trials for about 400 hard-core Sikh extremist suspects at a special court in Jodhpur in the Western state of Rajasthan.

Police said the Jodhpur trials, to be held next month, could impose the death penalty on Sikhs found guilty of waging war against the state.

The trials were being held outside Punjab because the government feared violence if large crowds gathered outside the courts when prominent Sikh militants were tried.

5 African leaders to meet today

LISBON (AP) — The heads of Portugal's five former African colonies are to meet this week on the equatorial island of Sao Tome to cement their alliance and to vent frustration over a stalemate in war-torn southern Africa.

The Wednesday-to-Friday summit is the fifth since Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe won their independence from Portugal a decade ago.

As diplomats from the five nations met last week to prepare the summit in Sao Tome, part of a two-island nation 360 kilometres off the coast of Gabon in the Gulf of Guinea, African diplomatic sources in the Portuguese capital said the agenda had not yet been determined.

It will be up to the leaders to decide what they discuss," said one African diplomat, who asked not to be identified. "Basically, they will be reviewing the progress of the alliance as well as areas where there is lack of cooperation."

The leaders of the five are Jose Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola, Samora Machel of Mozambique, Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde, Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau and host Manuel Pinto da Costa of Sao Tome and Principe. With the exception of Sao Tome and Principe, the Portuguese-speaking African nations fought and won bitter independence wars with Portugal.

The sources agreed that rebel bush wars in Angola and Mozambique would receive maximum attention as would the state of the two Marxist nations' relations with white-ruled South Africa.

The five African leaders were also to discuss the possible establishment of a joint development bank and a ministerial recommendation that visa requirements among their nations be dropped.

Adding urgency to the South African matter is the apparent failure of separate accords Angola and Mozambique signed last year with South Africa to reduce the pressure by South Africa-backed rebels within the two countries.

Last Feb. 16, the Angolans signed with South Africa the so-called "Lusaka accord" in the Zambian capital, raising hopes that three separate but inter-related regional guerrilla clashes could be wound down after years of costly fighting.

Defence official's acquittal signals row for Thatcher

LONDON (R) — A government official's surprise acquittal on a charge of leaking secrets has touched off a political row for British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

After a headline-grabbing two-week trial, top Defence Ministry official Clive Ponting was cleared Monday of breaking British secrecy laws by giving sensitive documents relating to the 1982 Falklands War to an opposition politician.

The verdict left Mrs. Thatcher facing accusations of concealing the truth about the sinking of the Argentine cruiser Belgrano and under attack for invoking a controversial secrecy law to prosecute Ponting.

The opposition Labour Party called for the resignation of Defence Minister Michael Heseltine and a junior minister John Stanley, saying they had connived to mislead parliament.

The case also proved a personal embarrassment to Mrs. Thatcher as it emerged that Mr. Ponting, at

38 a ministry high flyer, had been her protégé. She had praised his work, fostered his career and nominated him for a royal honour.

Mr. Ponting himself was jubilant. The verdict was "a tremendous surprise," he said, but he had proved that ministers were accountable to parliament.

The government said Attorney-General Sir Michael Havers, who recommended that Mr. Ponting should be prosecuted, would make a statement of the case later.

The documents Ponting leaked showed the Belgrano had been heading for home for 11 hours when it was sunk by a British submarine with the loss of 368 lives. Critics said this flatly contradicted government assertions that the ship was threatening British ships.

Mr. Ponting mailed the papers to Labour parliamentarian Tam Dalyell, who has long alleged that the government ordered the sinking to destroy a Peruvian peace plan.

Accused under a 1911 law of passing information to an unauthorised person, Mr. Ponting said he had obeyed a higher duty to the public because he thought ministers were hiding the truth.

Some sensitive evidence was heard in secret. The public sessions were nonetheless embarrassing for the government.

The burden of Mr. Ponting's case was that ministers misled parliament to protect the government's reputation and their own.

He suggested in court that junior minister John Stanley took the lead in advocating this approach and handled liaison with Mrs. Thatcher's 10 Downing Street office on the affair.

Labour leaders and senior figures in the minority Liberal and Social Democratic Parties demanded an official explanation. Liberal leader David Steel said: "Mr. Stanley in particular, the go-between from number 10 to the minister of defence in con-

cocting stories to mislead the House of Commons, should now consider his position."

Labour home affairs spokesman Gerald Kaufman said: "The evidence throughout the trial about the conduct of the defence secretary and his junior minister, Mr. John Stanley, shows these ministers in their true colours and ought surely to lead to ministerial resignations."

While the opposition parties attacked ministers, other commentators said the Ponting acquittal had made a mockery of Britain's secrecy laws.

Pressure for change in these laws has grown in recent years, but Mrs. Thatcher has expressed horror at any shift towards legal freedom of access to official information.

On Monday the head of the trade union for senior civil servants, John Ward, called for changes. There might have been a case for sacking Ponting, but not for prosecuting him, he said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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LOSE AND WIN IN DIAMONDS

Both vulnerable. South deals.			
NORTH			
♠ Q87			
♥ J876			
♦ K94			
♣ 92			
WEST			
♠ A J 6 4			
♥ 4			
♦ J 2			
♣ K J 10 8 7 6			
EAST			
♠ K 10 5 3 2			
♥ 3 2			
♦ A 5 3			
♣ 5 4 3			
SOUTH			
♠ Void			
♥ A K Q 10 9 5			
♦ Q 10 8 7 6			
♣ A Q			

The bidding: South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠.
Sometimes you can choose which defender will win a particular trick. If so, concede it to the hand that can do you the least damage.

There is something undignified about landing at the five-level voluntarily to a major suit. You are upping the ante without increasing your reward for fulfilling the contract. But there can be no ginsaying the fact South had a very fine hand that grew even better once his

suit had been supported. North had the bare-bones minimum for his free raise, so he kept signaling off until South made a slam try above game level, when he cooperated mildly.

West got his side off to a good lead when he attacked with the ace of spades. Declarer ruffed and drew trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy. Since the king of clubs was surely wrong and declarer had to lose the ace of diamonds, everything seemed to depend on the location of the jack of diamonds. But declarer proved the hand was a cinch even if he lost a trick to the knave.

As long as his club holding could not be attacked, he could set up at least one diamond in his hand to take care of dummy's losing club. So at trick four declarer led the one of diamonds from the table.
East could not rise with the ace of diamonds without setting up the suit, so he played low. Declarer ran the diamond to West's jack, and West could do no better than return a spade. Declarer ruffed and continued with a diamond to the king and ace. East shifted to a club, but it was too late. Declarer rose with the ace, cashed the queen of diamonds and pitched the board's club on a good diamond. Making five odd, losing two diamonds.